

**WHICH CAR KEEPS YOU COOLEST?**  
PAGE 5

**CAN THIS WOMAN RESCUE LAURA ASHLEY?**  
PAGE 23

**GHOSTS THAT WILL SAVE THE OLD VIC**  
Simon Jenkins  
PAGE 14

**Kelly, Dodi and dumping**  
PAGE 13

Tommy Graham cleared on suicide

## Scottish row Labour MP suspended

By JILL SHERMAN AND SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE Labour MP Tommy Graham was suspended by his party yesterday pending an investigation into local politics in Renfrewshire. But he was cleared of any responsibility for the suicide of fellow MP Gordon McMaster last month.

The Chief Whip, Nick Brown, said that serious allegations remained against Mr Graham that had to be properly investigated. These included that he had worked with a "known opponent" of the Labour Party.

At the same time Labour's general secretary, Tom Sawyer, announced that a task force was being established to investigate three constituency parties in Scotland and that two councillors there were to remain suspended.

The Paisley scandal completely overshadowed the Government's launch of its devolution referendum campaign in Scotland and an historic show of unity by the country's three parliamentary parties.

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, shared a platform with Alex Salmond of the SNP and the Liberal Democrat Menzies Campbell to push for a "double yes" vote on September 11. But the occasion was hijacked by problems in the west and Mr Dewar was left to combat suggestions that the election campaign had damaged the pro-devolution campaign and suggested that a Labour-dominated Edinburgh parliament would be "Paisley writ large".

Mr Graham, the MP for West Renfrewshire, later confirmed that he had been suspended. But in a statement read by his solicitor, he said that he was delighted to have been exonerated of any part in Mr McMaster's "tragic demise". Mr Graham, who was named in Mr McMaster's suicide note, has denied involvement in a whispering campaign or in spreading rumours that Mr McMaster was homosexual.



Graham "good reasons for investigation"

Mr Brown's statement appeared to support this, saying: "I am satisfied that Gordon was suffering from a severe depressive illness for which he had been receiving treatment over a long period of time and that this, and this alone, was the cause of his death."

However, the statement — authorised by the Prime Minister from his holiday home in France and checked by five lawyers — went on to say that there remained serious allegations that Mr Graham had failed to live up to the standards expected of the PLP. "These allegations relate to verbal attacks on colleagues, unrelated to Gordon McMaster's death. I have concluded that there are serious grounds for investigation to establish whether there is any justification for any of these allegations."

There have also been allegations that Mr Graham has worked with a known opponent of the Labour Party. I have also concluded that there are good reasons why these should be properly investigated. The whole affair has had the effect of bringing the party into disrepute and destabilising local politics in Renfrewshire."

I do of course, make no presumption of guilt, but I have decided that, pending the outcome of the further investigation by the Labour Party which is necessary, it is appropriate that I should suspend

Tommy Graham from membership of the PLP.

The "known opponent" mentioned was Paul Mack, the former deputy leader of Renfrew Council who was suspended by the Labour Party and is now an independent councillor. Mr Mack, who was also reportedly named in the suicide note, called his own press conference yesterday to "clear his name" and call for a judicial inquiry into local politics in Paisley.

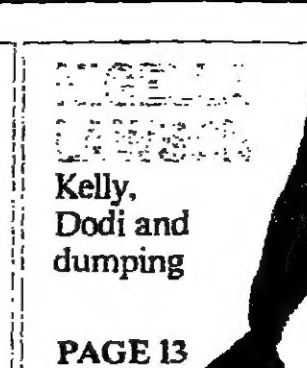
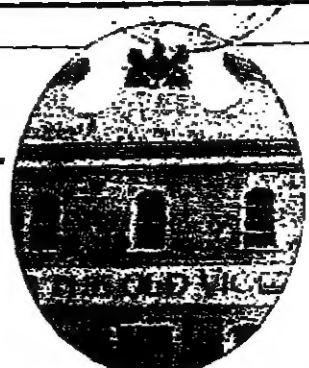
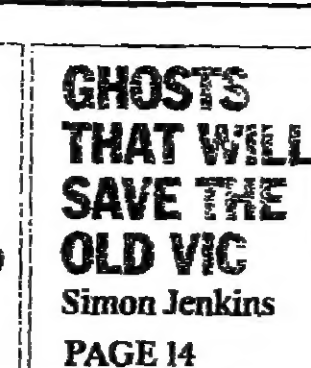
He accused Irene Adams, the Paisley North MP and a close friend of McMaster, for "selective leaking" of the suicide note and denied that he had been involved in smearing the former member for Paisley South. "That Gordon and I were political rivals and indulged in some fairly robust heated exchanges was no secret," he said. "What I had to say to Gordon I said to his face, what I wrote to Gordon I always signed."

"It's perniciously simplistic to suggest that there's some people wearing white hats and there's others wearing black hats. Mrs Adams, with indecent haste within hours of Gordon dying, was phoning the Press and telling them the contents of his letter." It was, he said, "the most degrading, cynical, scandalous piece of political opportunism."

Mr Graham's alleged links with Mr Mack are now to be the subject of a National Executive Committee investigation and Mr Sawyer said that there would also be a full membership check in Paisley South before a candidate was selected to fight the by-election — there had been claims of membership lists being packed with names to try to deselect Mr McMaster.

In the meantime, the Paisley North party would remain unconvinced — as it has been since 1995 when similar allegations were made about attempts to oust Mrs Adams.

Magnus Linklater, page 14  
Leading article, page 15



The first grapes of 1997 being harvested in vineyards near Bordeaux. Hopes are high that the early start will provide rich pickings for wine producers

## Early harvest points to a vintage '97

FROM BEN MACINTYRE AT CHATEAU HAUT-BRION, BORDEAUX

THE earliest wine harvest for more than a century got under way in Bordeaux this week, raising hopes that 1997 may prove to be one of the great vintages of modern times.

Fully five weeks before the usual start of the vendanges, a group of white Bordeaux wine producers in the Pessac-Leognan region sent workers into the scorching vineyard to begin picking grapes.

The earliest Bordeaux wine harvest on record began on August 15, 1893.

The exceptionally early start is due to a combination of climatic factors: a mild winter, a dry spring, a damp early summer and blazing sun for the last few weeks.

An early harvest is widely seen as the precursor to a bumper crop, since the grapes can be picked at their optimum ripeness and in easy conditions.

The white grape harvest now under way in Bordeaux is already being hailed as remarkable, but the all-important quality of the red wine

will depend on whether the favourable weather holds until the end of the next fortnight, when the picking season for Bordeaux's most prestigious red wines starts in earnest.

If the sunshine continues, the 1997 vintage is likely to be as good if not better than the last two excellent years. If the weather breaks, bringing rain or humidity, then the grapes are likely to rot faster and the resulting juice may be diluted, destroying hopes for a prime vintage.

A sudden change could also cut back the volume of the harvest and raise prices. "It is always a gamble," observed Jean-Bernard Delmas, director of Chateau Haut-Brion, the winemaker which led the charge into the vineyards this week.

Chateau names as Lafite-Rothschild, Petrus and Margaux are likely to follow suit within a few days.

"The precocity of the harvest means this will be a legendary year," the burly and affable wine producer remarked

staunchly as, with almost religious reverence, he watched the first tractor-loads of ripe grapes tumble into gleaming steel vats for crushing.

Such prestigious Pessac-Leognan chateaux as La Tour Marillac and Smith-Haut-Lafite have also begun their white grape harvest this week. The picking in Burgundy and champagne is similarly expected to make an early start, although only be a matter of days.

M. Delmas struck an almost mystical note. "The great vintage of 1811 was marked by a comet. This year we had Hale-Bopp. It's just folklore but who knows, he observes devoutly, adding that the great wines of the 1940s were also the result of abnormally early harvests."

If the grape harvest is half as ripe as the adjectives already being bestowed on it, then 1997 will certainly prove a superb year both for the Bordeaux wine trade and also for British wine buffs, given the current strength of sterling

against the French franc. □ Though 1893 wines were regarded at the time as exceptionally fine for the period, the prices obtained for them by the growers were very low because the harvest came in the middle of a profound slump (Robin Young writes).

Edmond Penning-Roswell, the former chairman of the Wine Society, is one of the few Britons alive to have tasted wines of 1893. Mr Penning-Roswell described the wine as having an extraordinary deep colour and tasting surprisingly young and fruitfully sweet in the 1970s.



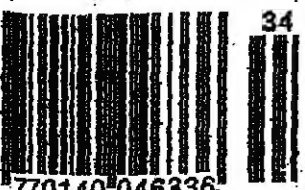
"Five weeks early this year so it should be a marvellous vintage"

### British 'spy' trawler found

The British trawler *The Gaul*, which sank in 1974 with the loss of 36 lives, was found today. It was involved in spying on the Soviet Union is thought to have been found. Page 2

TV & RADIO	42, 43
WEATHER	22
CROSSWORDS	22, 44
LETTERS	15
OBITUARIES	17
SIMON JENKINS	14
ARTS	30-32
CHESS & BRIDGE	38
COURT & SOCIAL	46
SPORT	57-62, 64
STYLE	22
LAW REPORT	18

British The Times overseas  
Australia \$15.00, Belgium \$18.00, Canada \$15.00, Denmark \$18.00, France \$15.00, Germany \$18.00, Greece \$18.00, Hong Kong \$18.00, India \$18.00, Italy \$18.00, Japan \$18.00, Korea \$18.00, Malaysia \$18.00, Mexico \$18.00, New Zealand \$18.00, Norway \$18.00, Portugal \$18.00, Singapore \$18.00, South Africa \$18.00, Spain \$18.00, Sweden \$18.00, Switzerland \$18.00, Taiwan \$18.00, Thailand \$18.00, USA \$18.00



### Inmates' easier life 'sop to the IRA'

By RICHARD FORD AND MARTIN FLETCHER

THE Government was accused last night of capitulating to the IRA after eight convicted terrorists and five men charged with terrorist offences were moved out of the most secure jail units in Britain.

They left the "prisons within prisons" at three top security jails after the Prison Service downgraded their security classification from Category A (exceptional risk) to Category B (high risk).

It means they can have physical contact with visitors, use the chapel, library, football pitch, gymnasium, workshops and education facilities and mix with a wider range of fellow prisoners.

Among those no longer considered an "exceptional risk" are the six men each given 35 years last month after being convicted of a plot to bomb London's electricity supply and a man facing a double murder charge in connection with the London Docklands bombing in February, 1996.

The decision to lower the security classification, which means the 13 men will have an easier life in jail, was seen as a government response to Sinn Féin following the latest IRA ceasefire.

sponse among Unionist politicians in Northern Ireland, who accused ministers of capitulating to IRA demands but was welcomed by Sinn Féin and the Irish Government.

John Taylor, deputy leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, condemned the decision, saying: "I do believe the Government is beginning to act recklessly and seem not to be taking the advice of the police on issues of security because it seems to me that the police on both sides of the border remain concerned that there will be a return to IRA violence."

Ian Paisley junior, the Democratic Unionist Party's justice spokesman, said the IRA prisoners would be "penning letters of thanks to Home Secretary Jack Straw" and accused the Government of being "weak on terrorists". He said the downgrading was the first step towards granting republican prisoners early release.

Officially the move to downgrade the security categorisation was a prison service operational decision made by Phil Wheatley, director of the country's top security jails.

A category A exceptional Continued on page 2, col 5



Smith: "I am proud of what I've done"

### Michelle Smith finds gold again

MICHELLE SMITH, the triple Olympic gold medalist whose successes have been clouded by unproven drug allegations, won her first European title in the 400 metres individual medley in Seville yesterday.

The Irish swimmer, who was promptly called for her third drug test in a week, declared: "I'm very proud of what I've done here. I am just going to enjoy the rest of the week." She did not, however, attend the winner's press conference and could be disciplined.

Britain won its first gold medal through Paul Palmer in the 200 metres freestyle. Page 44

### Greenpeace offered olive branch by BP

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE oil giant BP last night moved to defuse a bitter wrangle with Greenpeace by offering to suspend a £1.4 million court action against the group on condition that its members keep clear of BP's Atlantic oilfield.

The move comes after green activists in 70 countries yesterday pledged to mount a campaign to boycott BP filling stations and goods in protest at its legal action.

Greenpeace has claimed that it only has assets of £180,000 and that the BP suit would bankrupt it.

Yesterday an Edinburgh court granted BP an interim injunction banning Greenpeace Ltd, a ship's captain and two Greenpeace employees from carrying out further actions against BP in the Foinaven field west of Shetland. The field is 28 per cent owned by Shell and 72 per cent by BP.

Mr Richard Keen, QC, counsel for BP, told the court that Greenpeace was one of a number of groups which continually tried to prevent companies from legally drilling for oil.

He said: "There is a continuing course of action carried on by, among others, Greenpeace Ltd, which has involved par-

ties other than the present pursuers, who hold licences in the respect of the exploration for and exploitation of oil in the Atlantic, and also to prevent the pursuers and other parties from discharging their legal right to explore for and exploit mineral resources in these areas."

The court also ruled that Jon Castle, captain of a Greenpeace vessel, was in breach of an injunction not to interfere with BP's *Stena Dee* platform. It was occupied for a week by protesters until they were arrested on Sunday. Mr Castle faces a prison sentence or a fine.

A BP spokesman said: "BP's principal concern is not the recovery of damages. Rather, it is to ensure that its lawful operations are not interfered with and that safety is not compromised. BP has never questioned Greenpeace's right to campaign, but we do object to their employing unlawful tactics."

"BP offers to suspend its claim for damages against Greenpeace and its senior campaigners for so long as there is no further interference with BP's operations in the Atlantic frontier area."

Niki Kortvelyessy, speaker Continued on page 2, col 5

### HOME & CONTENTS INSURANCE

BUILDINGS SUM INSURED	CONTENTS SUM INSURED	ANNUAL PREMIUM
£250,000	£50,000	£495
£500,000	£50,000	£595
£750,000	£75,000	£795
£1,000,000	£100,000	£995

Home & Legacy specialises in providing Insurance for higher value homes and contents anywhere in the UK and we will save you £100's on your premiums - these example combinations are valid for your area, and include accidental damage. We also offer monthly instalment plans and competitive premiums for fine art, antiques, jewellery, and other valuables.

### MORE COVER FOR LESS

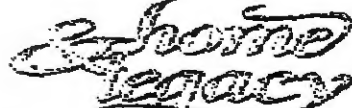
Home & Legacy offers the widest cover for the lowest premiums in the UK including accidental damage and worldwide cover for contents and valuables.

### NO AREA LOADING

These premiums quoted are true for anywhere in England, Scotland, Wales, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

### PERSONAL, CONFIDENTIAL & EFFICIENT SERVICE

Call Robyn Harris direct on  
**0171 824 8224**  
9am - 6pm, Monday to Friday



HOME & LEGACY INSURANCE SERVICES LIMITED  
BACKED BY THE UK'S LEADING INSURERS

Premiums quoted are valid for a period of 30 days from the date of this publication and are subject to the Home & Legacy standard conditions and free from history of substance or smoking. Satisfactory physical security in place in the home. Satisfactory claims experience and adequate cover for losses. Policy terms and conditions. Government Insurance Premium Tax (currently 4%). Our maximum premium limit is £995.



# Judges say girls must not be sent to adult prisons

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A GIRL of 16 won a High Court test case yesterday when a Home Office policy on dealing with young female offenders sentenced to detention was ruled unlawful.

Two High Court judges said it was wrong for the Prison Service to send females aged between 15 and 21 to an adult jail before deciding where they should serve their sentence. Mr Justice Sedley sitting with Mr Justice Auld are expected to give the reason for their decision later this week.

They were told that the girl, referred to only as F, had spent 15 days in Risley prison, in Cheshire, sharing cells with adult prisoners before being released on bail.

She has now been found a place at Styal woman's prison, one of seven jails with units for juveniles. The others are Brockhill at Redditch, Low Newton in Durham, Drake Hall in Staffordshire, Bullwood Hall in Essex, Eastwood Park in Gloucestershire and East Sutton Park at Maidstone.

The judges ruled that the girl should remain free until a correctly worded committal

warrant naming Styal not Risley had been issued. She had been sentenced to eight months by Accrington Youth Court, Lancashire, on July 29 for robbery, assaulting a police officer, disorderly behaviour and other offences.

Her lawyers told the High Court judicial review hearing that the Home Office had a policy under which all girls were sent to one of five adult prisons for assessment and allocation to juvenile units.

Ian Wise, for the girl, said that under the 1982 Criminal Justice Act, the Home Secretary had the power to direct that "an offender" be detained in a prison or remand centre for a temporary purpose.

The use of the singular, he said, meant that this power should be exercised only in individual cases and in exceptional circumstances, whereas the practice was applied to all juvenile girls.

"This is contrasted with the practice in respect of young male prisoners who are sent directly to young offender institutions," Mr Wise said.

There are, of course, no young offender institutions

specifically for females, only female prisons which have been designated as having a dual purpose for adult and young offenders.

Between 60 and 80 girls under 18 were in custody at any one time. All of them started their sentences alongside adults. This was against the general principle that juvenile offenders must go, not to jail, but to young offender institutions with educational and training facilities to help them to prepare for their return to the community.

Robin Tam, for the Home Office, said the fact that all juvenile girls were sent initially to prison did not mean that their cases were not being individually considered. The prison authorities needed to assess each case to make a rational decision on placement. He admitted that if more juvenile places were available, assessment might not need to be carried out in prison.

There are no young offender institutions solely for young female offenders because there are so few teenage girls offenders in custody.

## Ministers urged to pay student teachers as lure

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is considering paying a salary to teacher-training students in an effort to solve the classroom recruitment crisis.

Officials at the Department for Education and Employment have discussed "back-dating" part of a newly qualified teachers' pay, effectively giving them a wage in their final year of training.

No new money would be needed. The qualified salary rate of £14,280 would be split between the final year of training and the probationary year after qualifying, which

the Government proposed in its education White Paper.

Students on the final year of a four-year undergraduate course, or on the year-long postgraduate course, would receive about £5,000. During their probation year, they would get nearly £10,000. Teaching unions are likely to press for a payment closer to the unqualified teacher level.

The payments are believed to be in addition to government plans for bursaries for trainee teachers to help to cover the annual £1,000 tuition fees that begin next year.

Salaries for student teachers will be formally proposed next month by the National Association of Head Teachers in evidence to teachers' independent pay review body. David Hart, general secretary of the association, said the Government had already accepted the principle of paying trainee teachers. Mr Hart said: "There are too many well-paid alternative professions. We need something radical that is going to attract them into training to be a teacher."

Degree vacancies, page 19



A Greenpeace supporter during an anti-drilling protest on BP's Stena Dee oil rig

## TUC to confront Blair on pay and rights

By JOA SHERRMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TRADE unions are preparing to confront the Government over employment rights, the minimum wage, and NHS privatisation next month. The TUC agenda for next month's annual congress, published today, includes a number of hostile resolutions calling for full rights for all workers from the first day of work, a £4.42 hourly minimum wage, and opposing private finance in the NHS.

The Government faces defeat on all three issues although behind-the-scenes fixers are already trying to hatch compromises on critical motions to avoid embarrassing Tony Blair, who will address the Congress in Brighton next month, the first time a Labour Prime Minister has done so for nearly 20 years.

Insiders are trying to ensure the £4.42 figure disappears from the minimum wage motion, knowing that it is a higher sum than the Government will accept. TUC leaders were relaxed about a resolution by the National Union of Knitwear demanding a minimum wage related to "current industry" pay arrangements. But that motion has now been amended by Unison, the public sector union, reaffirming the 1996 Congress commitment to "a statutory minimum wage based on the formula for half median earnings (which currently gives a figure of £4.42 an hour). The issue of employment rights is another area where trade unionists are prepared to fight.

Almost all the resolutions on workers' rights call for full employment rights from day one for all workers instead of having to wait for two years. John Smith gave this commitment to the TUC when he was Labour leader, but it was overturned by Tony Blair and was not included in Labour's manifesto. Union leaders are confident that Government will move towards their position, although they expect both sides may compromise over one year. Ministers are awaiting a legal judgment from the European Court which is expected to propose employment rights within a year.

The Fire Brigades Union has put forward a motion which demands "that the clear commitment given by the then Labour leader, the late John Smith, to ensure that employment rights would apply to all workers from day one, whether they be part-time or temporary workers, be implemented."

Several resolutions have also been tabled opposing the Government's private finance initiative. Unions are worried that if private firms take over the building and management of NHS services, they cannot guarantee working conditions for their members. Unions are also concerned about reports that Mr Blair intends to delay the introduction of union recognition.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



Nubie shot in street

## Appeal for calm after drugs shooting

Police appealed for calm among the black community in the Handsworth area of Birmingham yesterday after a teenager was shot dead in the street. Joel Nubie, 18, was the victim of a gangland-style killing in which the killer rode up on a mountain bike and fired a single shot at point-blank range.

Mr Nubie, unemployed, had a conviction for possessing cocaine. It is believed to be the third drug-related killing in recent weeks.

## Spy base plan

The American National Security Agency is to go ahead with its plans to install more "golf ball" radomes at a signals intelligence listening station at Menwith Hill in North Yorkshire, despite concerns about the impact on a designated area of outstanding natural beauty.

## Air fares hope

Manchester airport was yesterday ordered to cut its landing charges by up to 25 per cent in the next five years — a move which could lead to cheaper air fares. The ruling was made by the Civil Aviation Authority in response to criticism by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

## Alarming trip

A Suffolk family whose burglar alarm drove neighbours to distraction while they were away will be welcomed home by a £300 bill. After three nights the local council was called in and officials decided to break in to the house in Lavenham. The bill is for a locksmith and carpenter.

## Lottery restraint

The introduction of the mid-week National Lottery draw has not encouraged people to spend beyond their means, the lottery regulator Oflot said. Three quarters of households play weekly but those with the lowest incomes are least likely to play twice a week, the survey found.

## Girls arrested

Three girls — one 11, the others 13 — have been arrested by police investigating a burglary in which a woman aged 33 suffered a five-hour ordeal in which dye was poured over her. An 18-year-old man has also been arrested. All are from West London.

## BP offers peace

Continued from page 1  
of the European Federation of Green Parties, said they were organising an international boycott of BP goods and services.

"The Green Party in Britain might not worry BP much. But like them we are an international body and wield considerable influence in many countries, in particular in Germany, the country that brought most pressure to bear on Shell during the Brent Spar episode."

In 1995 when Greenpeace mounted its campaign against Shell and its dumping of the Brent Spar, Shell's products were boycotted and some filling stations on the Continent were firebombed.

Uta Bellion of Friends of the Earth said yesterday that one of their reasons for backing Greenpeace was concern over the threat to non-violent protest if BP won its action. Tony

Juniper, campaigns director at Friends of the Earth, said yesterday that the BP action could backfire and compare it to the so-called McLibel court case in which McDonald's successfully sued two campaigners for defamation. Although the food company won its case, some observers felt that it lost the public image war.

"It is a fine judgement whether you take the McDonald's route or you have a more constructive dialogue," Mr Juniper said.

The Greenpeace campaign against BP is part of a wider protest against exploration and drilling in the so-called Atlantic frontier.

Greenpeace reacted last night to BP's offer by describing it as a "climbdown". A spokesman for the group said that "BP appeared to want to negotiate when there was nothing to negotiate".

## Prisons

Continued from page 1  
risk inmate is one who is considered to "pose a danger to the public, the police or the security of the state" and who has links with organisations with the resources and ability to launch an armed attack on a top security jail.

A prison service spokesman said that Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and Joyce Quin, the Prisons Minister, had been informed of Mr Wheatley's decision.

The spokesman added: "The move is based on a reduction in security risk and follows thorough assessment by the Prison Service in consultation with the police."

The decision also means that there is not a convicted IRA terrorist or person facing an Irish-related terrorist charge in one of the special secure units at Full Sutton jail near York, Belmarsh in Woolwich and Whitemoor near March in Cambridgeshire.

As a result of the decision the Full Sutton unit is to be "mothballed" but the Prison Service said it could open immediately if required.

Last week the Irish Government resumed its programme of early releases for republican prisoners, freeing two men convicted on relatively minor charges.

## Trawlers net wreckage thought to be 'spy ship'

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

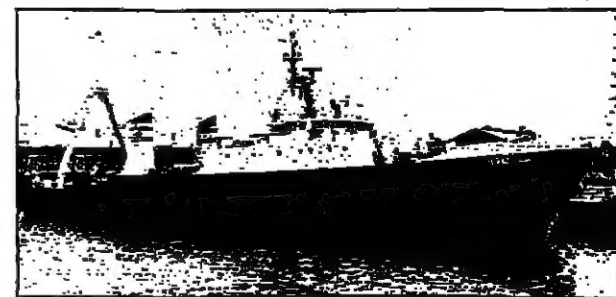
A BRITISH trawler which sank with the loss of 36 lives amid accusations that it was involved in spying on the Soviet Union is thought to have been found 60 miles off the Norwegian coast.

Two British trawlers fishing in the area last week netted what is believed to be wreckage from *Gaul*, which vanished in 1974. A lifeboat cover was also found.

A Channel 4 film crew and a Norwegian broadcasting company hired a ship and diving crew to find the wreckage. Divers in a mini-submarine took nearly three hours to locate the wreckage 270 metres below the surface.

Video footage shot by the Norwegians is thought to show the name plate of the trawler, "Gaul, Hull". It is not yet known whether a salvage operation will go ahead.

Relatives of the lost seamen accused the British authorities of covering up details of the sinking. It was claimed that a Soviet submarine was responsible for the tragedy. An inquiry dismissed relatives' claims that the ship was a disguised intelligence vessel, or that it had been seized by the Soviet Union.



Gaul went down in 1974 with the loss of 36 lives

However, many of the bereaved relatives continued to believe the boat did not sink accidentally. Some insisted their loved ones were being kept prisoner in Siberia, or that their remains had been buried in unmarked graves in the then Soviet Union. Their bitterness was intensified by the low level of compensation after a legal wrangle, the 29 dependants of the dead shared a total of £16,000.

The Ministry of Defence has always insisted that the trawler was not involved in spying, although British fishing ves-

sels are thought to have been used to take photographs of Soviet ship movements at the height of the Cold War in the 1950s and 1960s.

All but four of the 36 crew came from Hull. The other four were from the South Shields area of Tyneside.

Max Gold, a Hull solicitor who acts for some of the victims' relatives, said the discovery offered a glimmer of hope that they might one day be able to draw a line under the episode. Questions that could now be answered included why and how *Gaul* sank and what happened to the crew, as well as whether it was involved in gathering intelligence.

ON NO ACCOUNT  
ACCEPT LOW INTEREST  
WHEN YOUR BANK  
ACCOUNT'S IN CREDIT.

Caution: Many bank accounts give you little, if any, interest when you're in credit. But not the Abbey National Bank Account.

At Abbey National we currently offer one of the highest credit interest rates on the high street, and, if you pay in £500 or more each month, we'll give you a bonus which doubles the rate of interest. In fact, as you

Balance	Interest Rate	Gross p.a.
Abbey National	1.60%	£25,000+
Barclays	0.30%	0.30%
Lloyds	0.30%	0.50%
Halifax	0.50%	1.00%
Nat West	0.25%	0.25%
Midland	0.30%	0.30%

Source: The Research Department Ltd. All financial information is checked for accuracy on a weekly basis.

can see from the table below, with an Abbey National Bank Account you could be receiving up to 14 times more interest, compared to another bank we could mention.

And it doesn't stop there. The Abbey National Bank Account offers everything else you would expect from a bank account, and if you're switching from another bank, we'll give you a four month free overdraft, so there's no danger of upsetting your cash-flow.

Interested? Then you'll be glad to hear that you can apply for an Abbey National Bank Account over the

phone and receive a decision there and then. So to apply, pick up the phone, call Abbey National Direct on 0500 200 500 and quote reference A564C/10. Or pop into your local branch.

0500 200 500



M65

Telephone lines open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm. To assist us in improving our service we may record or monitor telephone calls. Comparisons based on interest-bearing current accounts. Rates may vary. Rates quoted for the Abbey National Bank Account include bonus payable on credit of at least £500 to the account each month for 12 months. You may be able to receive interest gross, otherwise it will be paid net of income tax at the prescribed rate. See leaflet for full conditions. Overdrafts and Multi-function cards are only available to Abbey National Bank Account holders, subject to status and not available to persons under 18 years. Written quotations are available on request. After the initial interest-free period, interest will be payable at the standard variable rate, currently 11.9% APR on authorised overdrafts. APR is variable. Overdrafts are repayable at any time in accordance with our personal banking terms and conditions. Telephone banking is available to Bank Account and Instant Plus Account customers who have a Multi-function, Electron or Abbeylink card. Abbey National and the Timberella Couple symbol are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL.

هكذا من الأصل



# Shocking? Not us, say artists as Academy issues health warning

Nude, limbless sex dolls are not for faint-hearted as the 'boring'

RA strives to create a show called Sensation. Dalya Alberge reports

FOR the first time in its 229-year history, the Royal Academy of Arts has felt obliged to display health warnings for anyone entering its latest show.

The faint-hearted will be alerted to the shocking nature of a sculpture featuring limbless, nude pre-pubescent girls with penises for noses and sex-doll orifices for mouths when it goes on display next month.

It is the work of the British brothers Dinos and Jake Chapman whose names have become synonymous with sensation and good prices in the world of contemporary art. They have said that they do not set out to shock and that their work "is based on a lot of intelligent conversation".

The RA show, titled *Sensation*, has already caused controversy because it will also include a portrait of the Moors murderer Myra Hindley — created from thousands of handprints of two children. Hindley and her victims' families are campaigning to have

the picture removed, leading to the latest planned exhibit, Michael Boylston's *Portrait of a Painter*, said: "It's the RA's job to show what's fashionable and academic but all this stuff is more old hat. Once they're trying to be original, but being desperately boring."

The brothers' work, *Zygotic Acceleration: Bio-genetic D-Sublimated Libidinal Model* (Enlarged x 1000) could be the most controversial work ever shown at Burlington House, a far cry from the genteel Summer Exhibition or lavish Impressionist shows staged by the bastion of tradition.

It is likely to outrage, if reactions to its showing in a commercial London gallery in 1995 are anything to go by. The police decided to pay a visit, and the dealer Victoria Miro screened off her shop window. A Victoria Miro spokesman said that they fully expect these fibreglass mutant mannequins to cause "trouble" at the RA.

The brothers Chapman are among Britain's bright young things whose art is avidly purchased and vigorously promoted by Charles Saatchi, Britain's foremost collector of contemporary art. He is liaising closely with the Royal Academy in picking out works for the loan exhibition opening on September 18.

The Chappmans — like many of the artists collected by Mr Saatchi — are no strangers to controversy. One critic has said: "These boys make Damien Hirst look like the Angel Gabriel. Jake and Dinos Chapman specialise in the art of the repellent. Rotting cows are tame by comparison." Another has noted that they "revel in gore, mutilation and pre-teen sex".

Others hail them as masters, glorifying their depiction of horror to Goya's *Disasters of War*. Jake, born in Chel-



Jake Chapman, below, and his brother Dinos with one of their sculptures: Their work "is based on a lot of intelligent conversation"



Saatchi: helping in choice of works

ham in 1966, and Dinos, born in London in 1962, graduated from the Royal College of Art and have collaborated together since 1991. The police are among their regulars: they attracted the attention of the vice-squad last year with a pornographic film attacking an Italian dealer who had banned a pair of their mannequins with genitalia in strange places.

Their spokesman explained that they were so upset, they reworked the piece to feature a severed head of the dealer: they gave him a penis for a

nose and featured it as a prop, a sex toy, in the movie which they made with professional porno actresses. He stressed that the Chappmans do not set out to shock.

Jake Chapman said that there are "any number of ways" to interpret their work. Seeing the mutant figures as "a genetic experiment that's gone wrong — or right" is one approach.

September is their month: apart from the RA show, they will be at the Victoria Miro Gallery, and in New York, at the Gagosian Gallery, which

they are planning to convert into "a mass graveyard littered with skulls and overlooked by zygotic sculptural figures". Prices will range from £16,000 to £40,000.

The RA is undoubtedly expecting to cause a stir — if only in its choice of the show title *Sensation*.

Philomena Davidson-Davis of the Royal Society of British Sculptors, expressed concern: "I do think museums and galleries such as the RA ought to think very carefully about the face it's presenting to the public — particularly as this is

getting more and more offensive.

"We've got to draw the line somewhere and say stop."

A Royal Academy spokesman said: "There are a few works in the exhibition which may be shocking and the Royal Academy will be taking appropriate steps to alert visitors to these so they can use their own judgement as to whether they wish to see them or not."

"There will be a few works that will be shocking. But there are over 110 works by 40 artists and the Chappmans are

only two on show." The brothers' last extensive exhibition was staged at the ICA last year. An ICA spokeswoman said yesterday: "We were very careful to make people aware before hand. We showed Westminster Council, for example. We showed them and established a legal situation. We also put a sign on the door of the gallery which said —

"Some visitors may find the content of this exhibition disturbing."

She noted that the ICA's audience is less shockable than the Royal Academy's.

## Passion for plastic lowers the gold standard

By Peter Foster

GOLD credit cards, which once guaranteed instant attention from hotel managers, Savile Row tailors and West End restaurateurs, are fast losing their shine.

Banks have taken to handing out such symbols of wealth and prestige to allcomers, according to a survey published yesterday.

The numbers of gold cards have more than trebled from 800,000 in 1993 to more than 2.5 million by the end of last year. Today more people own gold cards than draw the dole.

The chief culprits in this devaluation of the gold standard appear to be banks hoping to entice new customers by flattery, offering them the status once conferred only on the seriously wealthy.

William Elderkin, of the analysts Datamonitor who compiled the report, said banks were switching to the gold market in response to greater competition in the credit card business.

"The explosion in the number of gold cards is inevitably undermining their exclusivity," he said.

The minimum income for a gold card has been frozen by many issuers for the past four years. A salary of £20,000 is thought sufficient to be eligible. For some this may be thought dangerously close to the national average wage of £17,000.

While their poorer cousins enjoy the dubious kudos of elevation to the gold set, heavyweight spenders have graduated to Platinum or Premier cards which retain some last vestige of the influence wielded by the gold card in its early days.

The American Express platinum card is strictly by invitation only and the chosen few pay £375 a year for the privilege.

## Asian employed white woman 'for the image'

By Kathryn Knight

AN ASIAN company director employed a white woman so that his business would present a positive multi-cultural image, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday. But he forced her to resign because his Asian clients disliked taking orders from her.

Linda Johnson, a 45-year-old personnel manager, said Dhiren Doshi, head of Doshi Professional Services, told a colleague that in his culture she would "never be treated as an equal".

In a "calculated act" to widen the company's market, Mrs Johnson said she was asked to pose for a promotional brochure in a false role and ordered to appear in a video of a mock board meeting. In reality, her role on the board had gone to an Asian man, she told the tribunal in Croydon, south London.

Mrs Johnson, a mother of three who is claiming unfair dismissal due to racial and sexual discrimination, told the tribunal that she joined the company on a £25,000 salary in December 1995. She had previously worked in personnel at Harrods and at Alders of Croydon.

The company, based in Norbury, south London, was an umbrella firm covering a range of in-house services, including financial advice and wine distribution, given to

clients for a monthly fee. Mrs Johnson said most of the clients were Asian, as were three quarters of the staff, but she was paid much less.

She said her Asian male peers were paid between £5,000 and £20,000 more than her, and drove Mercedes or Ford Mondeo company cars while she was given a secondhand Honda. She had also been denied access to a pension scheme and private health care, which was afforded to her Asian male colleagues.

In March 1996, Mrs Johnson said, she was demoted without reason. "I was told to report to a male Asian who had previously been consid-

ered as a fellow employee with equal status," she said. "I can only conclude that the way I was treated was because I was a white female."

She said she was forced to resign with a £3,500 pay-off, but this payment had been stopped when Mr Doshi heard she was making a claim to the tribunal.

Giving evidence to the tribunal, Mr Doshi denied racial and sexual discrimination and said Mrs Johnson had fabricated her claims to make money out of the firm. He claimed she had blackmailed him by threatening to take him to a tribunal unless he gave her up to £40,000.

The hearing continues.



Mr Doshi said at the tribunal that Mrs Johnson had fabricated her claims to make more money



## Channel pallet man swamped with offers

By Stephen Farrell

THE Scotsman who tried to row the Channel on a wooden pallet yesterday reaped the first dividends of national attention.

After drying his clothes at his brother's home in Portsmouth, he received calls from Franklin Bath, "career outplacement" specialists, Harley Street dentist Lawrence Gault and the offer of a one-year season ticket from Sea France ferries.

The former Royal Signals lance corporal lost four of his front teeth, food, driving licence and photographs of his four children when he was nearly rammed by a tanker while paddling across the Channel. He attempted the crossing because he did not have enough money to buy a ferry ticket in Calais.

"It all sounds very promising. I went to a dentist in Portsmouth this morning and they said I would have to wait until the end of September on the NHS," he said. "I still feel pretty exhausted but I'm far more optimistic than I have been for the last few months."

## Polo firm faces cruelty charge

By Lin Jenkins

A POLO company may be prosecuted over the death of two valuable thoroughbred horses.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is carrying out post-mortem examinations to confirm that the horses died from one of the most common forms of poisoning during the summer — eating ragwort.

One of the animals, a teenage gelding, was found lying dead against the barbed wire fence of a field in Lightham, Surrey. Another, a mare aged about eight, was so ill it had to be put down immediately. Two other horses connected with Magna Carta Polo were taken from the field. They were staggering and disorientated in a manner associated with ragwort poisoning. Polo

ponies can be worth from £4,000 to tens of thousands of pounds.

Police called in the RSPCA after they were alerted by a neighbour to the appalling state of the polo ponies in a field riddled with ragwort and bracken. Both are harmful to horses, and ragwort comes under the Injurious Plants Act, allowing the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to serve clearance notices. However, there are few instances of landowners being forced to get rid of it.

Martin O'Sullivan, an RSPCA inspector, said: "All animal owners have a duty to look after their animals and if one becomes ill or dies as a result of neglect, we will investigate."

The ownership of the horses has not been established, but all were connected with Magna Carta Polo of Windlesham,

Surrey, run by John Horswell, an Old Etonian and respected polo player. Mr Horswell, 43, said that his staff always made sure that the fields were free of ragwort. "It is bracken poisoning. Some horses get a taste for it. There is nothing you can do about bracken, it is endemic to this area."

Buff Crisp, secretary of the Hurlingham Polo Association, said that the welfare of ponies was taken extremely seriously by those running the sport. "We have a welfare officer in every club in the country and take the abuse of ponies as a very serious offence. We are unaware of this incident but will be asking the RSPCA for the details." He said that Mr Horswell was a respected member of the polo scene. "He does an awful lot to help the youngsters."

THE MOST POWERFUL ARGUMENT FOR SAVING MONEY IS TO MERGURATS MONEY POTS OF MONEY

## GUARANTEED CHEAPER CALLS... DOUBLE YOUR MONEY...

Wonga, dosh, dough, call it what you like, but with Mercury you'll make great savings if you make international or national calls.

In fact, we're so confident that you'll save money on your call bill (even against BT's PremierLine and Friends and Family),

that if you don't, we'll refund double the difference. Call the number below. If only for the money.

FreeCall 0500 500 366

Price Pledge terms apply on Mercury SmartCall and UK-Call toll bills only, compared against BT's basic rates and discount schemes, excluding line rental and temporary promotional offers. Not available on Calling Card or business packages.



## Nurses in Saudi case suffer over 'guilty' rumours

By MICHAEL THEODOROU  
AND DANIEL MCGRORY

THE two British nurses accused of murdering an Australian colleague in Saudi Arabia are said to be close to mental collapse as they plead with the authorities to deliver a verdict after reports that they have been found guilty.

Rumours that they have been convicted have reached Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan in their stifling and crowded cell. British consular officials will visit the two in the Dammam central prison today and are pressing the Saudis to allow a British doctor to examine the women in an effort to have them moved to better conditions.

Jonathan Ashbee, brother-in-law of Mr Parry, said: "These women cannot take much more. We are in the dark, the Foreign Office has been unable to discover what happens next, but the mental torture for the two of them is quite intolerable."

The Saudi authorities maintained their protracted silence yesterday about whether their case had been referred to a higher court for sentence. Speculation in Saudi Arabia is that the women's case has been passed to the Court of Cassation.

Mr Ashbee said: "Our lawyers say this could mean the judge has referred it because the decision is outside his remit, or they are deciding whether their forced confessions should be allowed. At worst, it means that court will pass sentence."

Both women have denied murdering Yvonne Gilford, a staff nurse stabbed 17 times in her bedroom, in the hospital complex where they all worked.

Ms Parry, 38, from Alton, Hampshire, is already receiving psychiatric treatment and Ms McLauchlan, 31, of Dundee, is weak with sickness and diarrhoea. Both are said to be unable to sleep for fear of being beheaded if found guilty.

The Foreign Office said last night: "The Saudis have not told us anything, but we are making frequent and urgent inquiries."



Veterans Geoff Larkin and Len Berry sitting astride a Mark I in front of the larger Mark II at the Teesside Training and Enterprise Council near Middlesbrough

## Salute to courage of human torpedo

Exhibition of last missile recalls  
their vital role in helping to  
destroy might of Hitler's navy



Navy frogmen preparing for a torpedo attack. The crews volunteered for dangerous missions

A RESTORED Second World War human torpedo went on show to the public for the first time yesterday.

The battery-powered Mark II — a missile packed with explosives and two frogmen — is the only one of its kind. It was discovered at Portsmouth docks by Robert Hobson, whose father, Lieutenant-Commander Robert Hobson, helped to develop the missile and took part in several missions.

The Mark II is on display at the Teesside Training and Enterprise Council near Middlesbrough, where it was restored. There is also a model of a Mark I.

Both torpedoes were submarine-launched, but in the Mark I version the crewmen sat astride the torpedo as it was fired. In the Mark II they were inside the missile, with their heads sticking out, to make it more streamlined.

Once they reached their target ship the nose of the torpedo, containing the explosive charge, was released and attached like a limpet mine.

The men would then beat a hasty retreat with the remainder of their craft.

The pilots were equipped with screw-on helmets and gas masks. The primitive oxygen cylinders had to be self-contained to prevent tell-tale bubbles escaping.

The torpedoes could reach a speed of eight knots and helped to destroy more than 250,000 tonnes of enemy shipping. They also gained vital intelligence on enemy positions and delivered spies behind enemy lines.

The restored Mark II is a testimony to the perseverance of Mr Hobson, who first became aware of the story of the human torpedoes when clearing out his late father's house. Through personal papers, Mr Hobson tracked down two other torpedo pilots, Lieutenant-Commander Geoff Larkin and Petty Officer Len Berry, and four years ago unearthed the remains of the last torpedo.

Mr Larkin and Mr Berry were at yesterday's unveiling. "They asked for volunteers for special and hazardous missions," said Mr Larkin, 79. "I was in America at the time and volunteered principally so I could return to England and get married. I soon realised why they had the saying 'Never volunteer for anything'."



One of the missiles being readied for launch

Mr Berry, 33, said: "It is great to see one of these back in business. It is right that their place in history is recorded."

Mr Hobson, who has established the Chariots Trust aimed at preserving submarine history and hopes to set up a museum to display naval

artefacts, said: "I am a little sad that I never got to speak with my father about his missions, but that was the way of these men. They never spoke of their bravery. 'Finally there is something which displays what these men did. You only have to look at this contraption to recognise the bravery of the men who operated them.'"

The last surviving Royal Navy destroyer from the Second World War, HMS Cavendish, is being sold by South Tyneside council to a Malaysian firm to become part of a museum.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Cut-price 'green' fridge for the poor

Up to 50,000 eco-friendly fridges, priced at £25 rather than £120, are to be offered to low-income households as part of a government scheme to increase the uptake of energy-efficient devices. The units do not contain CFCs, the coolants that damage the ozone layer. Alex Goodwin, of the Energy Saving Trust, which is backed by the Environment Department and the electricity companies, said the fridges could also reduce risks of food poisoning among the infirm and elderly.

### Silent Fashanu

John Fashanu, the former footballer cleared of match-fixing, defended his decision to remain silent at his trial. He told *Hellol*: "Because I wasn't guilty of anything, I felt no need to say anything." He declined to say why he opened a bank account in someone else's name and why money was supposedly paid into other people's accounts on his behalf. "It's private, but entirely legitimate," he said.

### Tax clamp

Ten vehicles were clamped in London streets as patrols began a campaign against road-tax evasion. The owners must produce a valid tax disc and pay £68 to have the clamp removed. Vehicles are towed away after a day and the penalties increase until, after five weeks, unclaimed vehicles are crushed or sold. Road-tax evasion is costing the nation £175 million a year in lost funds.

### PC jailed

PC John Walters, 33, of Peckham police station, south London, was jailed for three months for assault. He repeatedly beat, with his truncheon, a 19-year-old man who had sworn at him and hurled a brick to the ground. Eric Edwards had previous convictions that included threatening to kill a policeman. The judge said that nevertheless "the law has to be seen to be even-handed".

### Boys cleared

Three boys aged 11, 15 and 16 were cleared by magistrates of burning down two adjoining schools in Plymouth after the prosecution offered no evidence. A solicitor representing one of the boys said after the hearing at the city's youth court: "It was a rush to justice. They got the wrong three." Leigham junior and infant schools, which were destroyed in April, will cost £2.4 million to rebuild.

### Sea safety move

The Coastguard Agency and the Marine Safety Agency are to be merged next April to give better marine safety and environmental protection, the Government said. There could be about 15 job losses among administrative staff, but none is likely to be from redundancy. About £500,000 could be saved, but Glenda Jackson, junior Transport Minister, said that was not the main reason for the merger.

### Short-changed

Sixteen million bank customers out of the 61 million with current accounts receive no interest on credit balances, according to a report commissioned by the Abbey National. Two-thirds of the 12.5 million who are paid interest want higher returns for bigger balances. Nearly half of those questioned, representing eight million accounts, were being charged between £5 and £10 a month for being overdrawn.

### Bird beats record

An attempt to set a British land-speed record failed when a bird was sucked into the engine of the jet-powered vehicle. Colin Fallows averaged 248.27mph over the quarter-mile run at Elvington, near York. His car is 29ft long and powered by a Rolls-Royce jet engine taken from an RAF Gnat aircraft. Mr Fallows, 47, said he would make another attempt on the 259mph record, set 17 years ago.

## Pet-food poultry is sold to shops in £3m fraud

By RUSSELL JENKINS

ENVIRONMENTAL health officers believe they have uncovered a nationwide conspiracy by rogue meat dealers to pass off hundreds of tons of condemned poultry as fit for human consumption.

A team of officers from Rotherham council in south Yorkshire launched an investigation last year into the alleged illegal trade, worth £3 million, in chicken and turkey breasts that were sent to rendering plants to be turned into pet food. They believe that more than 1,500 tons of tainted meat may have been illegally reclaimed and found its way via companies in Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Sussex on to shop shelves.

The meat is said to have passed through a number of middlemen and retailers before reaching the shops. The council said that the supermarket chain Kwik Save is believed to have unwittingly stocked the meat through franchisees or suppliers.

The meat involved is that from animals which may have

died on farms or on the way to slaughter. The corpses are categorised as "dead on arrival" for pet food only. However, the carcasses were plundered to retrieve prime cuts for human consumption. Chicken costing 2p a pound as offal at the beginning of the meat-laundering process could attract prices of about £120 a pound in the shops.

The investigation has resulted in 17 meat dealers being charged with conspiracy to defraud and conspiracy to sell unfit food. Another 20 butchers will face prosecution on charges related to the receipt and sale of the meat.

A spokesman for Kwik Save said that fresh meat sections of their stores were all run by independent concessions in accordance with stringent company guidelines. "While it is the responsibility of the manager of each concession to adhere to these guidelines, regular checks are made by Kwik Save to ensure that quality and hygiene standards are maintained. Should standards at any time be compromised, Kwik Save would take immediate remedial action."

The British Poultry Meat Federation, which represents the turkey and chicken industry, said it was appalled at the revelations. Peter Bradnock, the chief executive, said: "The poultry industry obeyed the laws and condemned these carcasses in the processing plant. I am horrified that carcasses sent to an outside company for rendering as pet food have found their way back into the human food chain. It is illegal and cannot be condoned. Fortunately it is an isolated incident, but extremely serious."

## Parents see red over fourth new United kit this year

By RICHARD DUCE

A PLEA for cheaper children's replica football shirts was made yesterday after Manchester United decided to launch its fourth team strip this season.

United, the most commercially successful club in the world, is to launch the strip for the side to wear in the Champions' League. Should the club fail to progress in the competition the strip, retailing at £40, may be worn only six times.

Sheila Spiers, the vice-chairman of the Football Supporters' Association, said yesterday: "Manchester United is certainly exploiting the market. It would not be so bad if children's sizes were much cheaper."

News of a fourth strip was

not greeted warmly by parents whose children support Manchester United. James Beaumont, of Sale, whose son, Marcus, eight, is a keen United fan, said: "We've drawn the line one shirt each year."

Maxwell Brown, 11, from Ashton, in Lancashire, said: "If they are not careful, kids like me are really going to lose faith in the team. We just can't afford to keep up. I've been earning a little extra by doing the dishes for my mum, so if I keep it up maybe I'll have enough to buy the shirt. Then again, by the time I've saved up there'll probably be another one out."

The replica football kit industry is worth £200 million. Umbro, which makes Manchester United's shirts in an £11 million deal, said:

"Rather than exploiting fans, we are giving them an opportunity to be a commensurate United's appearance in the most important European competition."

Football, page 41

The taxman  
takes a  
bite when you  
earn it.

The taxman  
takes a  
bite when you  
spend it.

Do you really want  
him to take a bite when  
you save it?

It's your lolly, so why let the taxman take a crunching 20% bite from the interest when you're saving it? Just send off for our free, easy to digest money guide. It shows you different ways to stop the taxman getting his nasty gnashers into your savings. It's also a straightforward guide to making the most of your money. For your copy

or to arrange an appointment with a Savings and Investment Adviser, simply send off the coupon or call free on 0500 758 400.

Call TSB PhoneBank now for your free guide quoting TM2018  
**0500 758 400**

### Tax-Free Savings

Yes, I would like to receive my free TSB Money Guide. Send to: TSB Money Guide Offer, FREEPOST SCE 4272, Stratford SN38 9HW.

Surname: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

First Name:

Telephone Number:

Address:

Postcode:

TM2018

Are you a TSB customer? Yes ☐ No ☐

We'd like to contact you from time to time with details about services from TSB and other TSB group companies if we think they'd interest you. However, if you'd prefer not to be told about these services, please tick this box ☐

To ensure security for our customers and staff and to help maintain service quality, some calls may be recorded and monitored. TSB PhoneBank may call you to check you have received your guide, and if you have any questions, arrange a time for you to see one of our Savings & Investment Advisers who will make sense of your savings and help protect your future with TSB.

**TSB** We want you to say YES

**KERALA**

2 Nov 97 - 7 Dec 97 inc.  
Kerala Beach Hotel (RO) from £379

2 Nov 97 - 7 Dec 97 inc.  
7 Nts Journey through Kerala & 7 Nts Beach Hotel from £699

Flights from Gatwick to Kerala every Sunday from November.

For competitively priced holidays to Kerala ask your Travel Agent to contact Samak Holidays.

**Samak** 0181 423 3000

ABTA ATTO ATOL5558



# Record sales keep Britain cool

If your loved one is blowing hot and cold, blame it on the heat and join the queues for a fan or an ice-cream, reports Emma Wilkins

RECORD purchases of ice-cream, electric fans and air-conditioning units are helping Britain to cope with what could be the hottest August for 300 years.

The hottest places yesterday were Heathrow and Birmingham, where the temperature reached 31C (88F). But thunderstorms brought cooler temperatures and flooding in the West, including Swindon where parts of the town centre were under 3ft of water. Fair Isle had the lowest temperature of 16C (61F).

The high humidity is putting strain on relationships already tested by the school holidays, according to Relate, the marriage guidance organisation. "Summer holidays can be a stressful time for couples," Julia Cole, a spokeswoman, said. "Spending time with the

family can magnify problems. The hot weather makes this worse: because people are stressed out they are less likely to be patient and more likely to snap at their partner."

Working late may no longer be a sign of a conscientious employee: air-conditioned offices are an attractive prospect compared with a sticky journey on public transport to a home filled with fractious partners and children.

Sales of desk fans have hit record levels, according to retailers. B&Q reported sales of 17,000 fans over the weekend in its 283 branches. At one branch of the hardware chain Robert Dyas in the City of London,

181 desk fans were sold last week.

Air-conditioning at home remains a luxury enjoyed by only the wealthy, with a full air-conditioning system for a large four-bedroomed home costing £20,000 to install. Mobile units can be bought for less than £1,000 from DIY and hardware stores, but they cool only one room at a time.

The National House Builders' Federation, which represents 80 per cent of homebuilders, said air-conditioning was not fitted as standard in any new homes. However, the Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association reported a growing interest in domestic air-conditioning. "People such as man-

aging directors, who have air-conditioning in their offices and their cars, are increasingly expecting to have it in their homes," a spokesman said. "People's expectations are rising: they want to know why they shouldn't feel more comfortable at home."

Lonex Ltd, a heating systems company based in Hampstead, northwest London, said inquiries about domestic air-conditioning had risen since last summer. Roland Perring, the managing director, said his clients were generally rich and successful business people.

"We are getting more and more inquiries from customers but they tend to be people who live in the more flash properties in Hampstead," he said. "In the whole of last

year we fitted three houses with air-conditioning and this year we have already done two. It would cost in excess of £20,000 for a full system in a big Hampstead home."

"Air-conditioning is still regarded as a nice extra luxury. My office is air-conditioned and I've had it in my car for years. This year, I must admit, I have actually thought about putting it in my home for the first time."

Hamptons, the estate agent which is selling a development of 14 £295,000 flats in Fulham, southwest London, said air-conditioning was not fitted as standard in new properties. Apartments at The Square, in Parsons Green Lane, have beech floors, special dimmer-light systems, double-glazing and video entry phone — but not the cool

air so vital in the summer. "A lot of American clients think it is a great shame that the new flats don't have air-conditioning," Zoe Goddard, of Hamptons, said.

"The demand is there for it, but it's still very rare to find it even in newly built flats. People who work in air-conditioned offices really miss it at home. I have gone out and bought myself a unit for my flat for £2,000 — it's wonderful," she added.

Some respite from the discomfort is expected for people living in the West with cooler weather forecast for the next few days. But temperatures in London and the South are expected to remain high until the weekend at least, according to London Weather Centre. A spokesman said that if the present

temperatures continued, it would be the hottest August since records began in 1659.

Manchester had a more pleasant temperature of 29C (84F) while south coast resorts, which were cooled by sea breezes, experienced temperatures of between 24C and 27C (75F to 81F).

Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales were also enjoying their share of the sunshine with the mercury hitting 28C in Glasgow, 25C in Belfast and 26C in Cardiff.

Ice-cream sellers were celebrating the hot weather after a "painful" June. Increased demand in August looks set to push sales up to a record £200 million this year compared with £120 million last year, according to the Ice-Cream Alliance.

## Drivers burn their fingers in fight to beat the heat

MOTORISTS who want a respite from the heatwave will find that the ten coolest cars on the market are also among the most expensive.

Sales of cars with air-conditioning have risen fivefold in the past year with manufacturers such as Nissan and Vauxhall basing advertising campaigns on cooling equipment, now displacing the sunroof as Britain's favourite motoring accessory.

Although carmakers are dashing to sell air-conditioning either as an extra or as standard equipment, Lease Plan, one of Europe's biggest company car providers, said yesterday that motorists had to pay top prices for systems best able to combat the sweltering heat.

It rated the Mercedes S600 as the car to keep cool in this summer — at a price of more than £100,000. Only one model in its top ten — the Renault Megane Scenic — is below £18,000, with the rest in the luxury or executive class.

Steve Dunn, Lease Plan's commercial director, said: "Britain is still behind the times slightly on air-conditioning."

"The concept is in its infancy in this country, where we have only recently started to have these hot summers, unlike the United States where cars have had air-con for years and the need for maintenance and service is understood."

"The quality of air-conditioning varies enormously and there is no doubt the best systems are usually on the most expensive cars."

Drivers who hire cars at holiday destinations such as Florida are often taken aback at the contrast between air-conditioning in American models, which blasts a freezing gale into the passenger cabin almost as soon as the ignition key is turned, compared with the tepid air which leaks from the vents of cars at

Air-conditioning is fast replacing sunroofs as the essential summer car extra, but systems that deal with the heat do not come cheap, say Kevin Eason and Adrian Lee

home. British buyers have traditionally been put off air-conditioning because it needs engine power to drive the refrigeration system, often leading to a marked increase in fuel consumption, particularly in small-engined models.

When air-conditioning systems were fitted to Hillman Hunters for sale in the Middle East 20 years ago, they demanded so much power that the car's top speed dropped by about 20mph.

Air-conditioning was once considered a luxury; in 1990, only a quarter of models were fitted with it. Today, almost half of new cars have it and that figure will rise to two thirds by 2000.

Carmakers now test their air-conditioning equipment in the Arizona desert, where temperatures can reach 50C. Al Clarke, spokesman for the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, says air-conditioning is the new status symbol. "In London, particularly, it has become a style thing."

"Motorists with air-conditioning take great delight in sitting at the lights with their windows closed, watching drivers without air-conditioning sweltering and breathing in fumes."

The best systems, costing more than £1,500, are fully automatic and rely on sensors on the passenger and driver sides of the cars. The driver selects the desired temperature with the press of a button and chilled air is pumped to

the front and back of the car. Cheaper, semi-automatic systems, work in a similar way but the temperature is set by a dial on the dashboard. Those basic systems can cost between £400 and £1,000, pumping out chilled air from dashboard vents.

However, they are unlikely to be able to cope with the sort of extreme temperatures which have baked Britain for the past month.

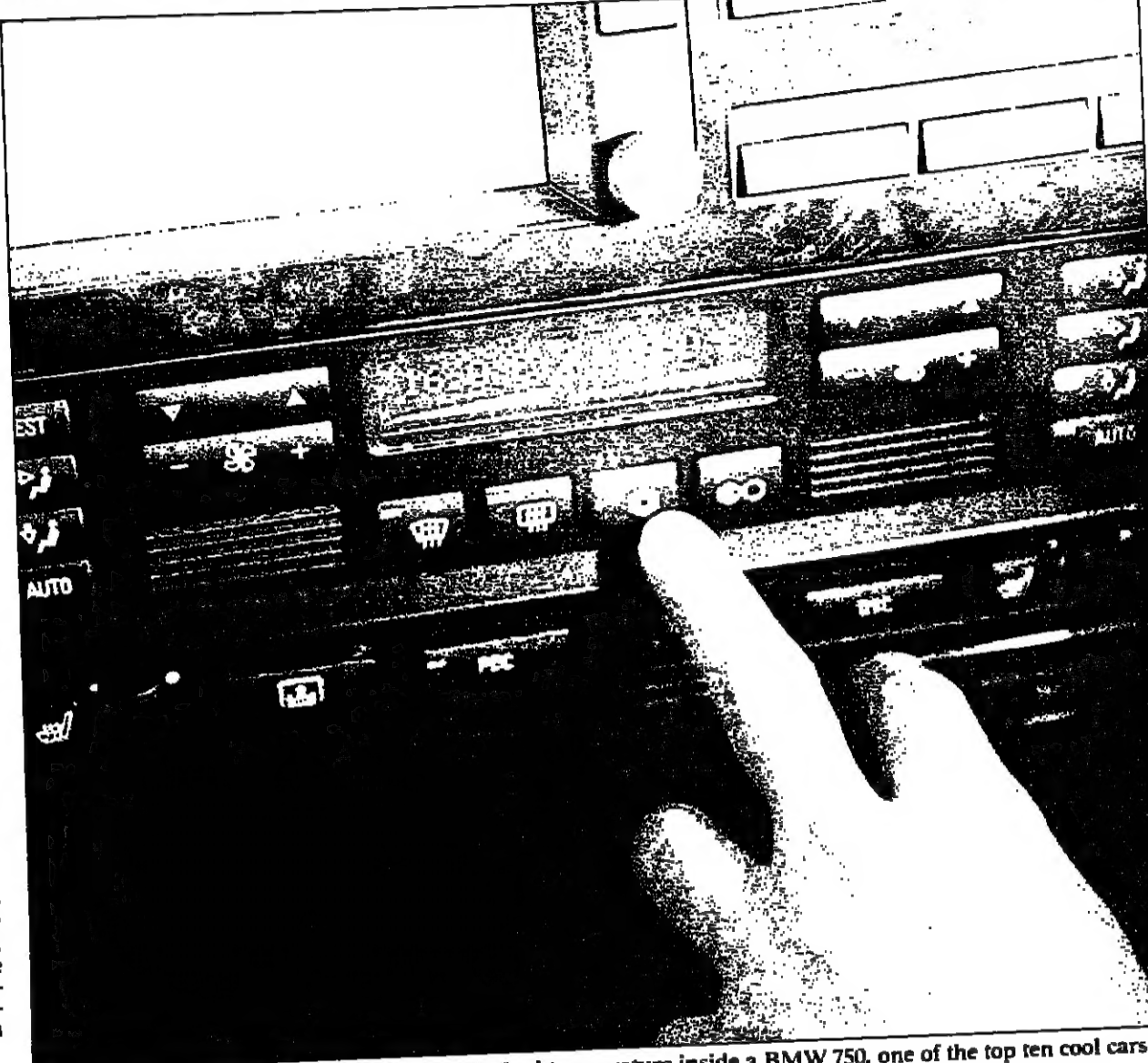
Peter Rawlinson at Chrysler, whose Jeep Grand Cherokee is in the top ten, said: "In the States, people won't buy a car without air-conditioning. The British were more reluctant to embrace air-conditioning but that is changing."

The marketing men appear to be winning the struggle to convince the British car buyer that air-conditioning is a benefit all year. It prevents misting and, with the windows shut, the driver can hear the radio.

As yet, no one has officially tested the different units available in Britain but there was admiration for Audi's solar panel system.

At a cost of more than £1,500 — plus a minimum of £35,000 for the car — it pumps fresh air into the car when it is parked, allowing the air-conditioning to chill the car more efficiently when the engine is switched on.

Air-conditioning in Ford, Nissan, Toyota and Chrysler's middle-market cars was also rated highly by their rivals. Nissan, makers of the Almera, offers air-conditioning as stan-



Shooting the breeze: a driver selects the desired temperature inside a BMW 750, one of the top ten cool cars

## Health insurance

**Call Prime Health and you could save up to £200 on your premium.**

Saving money doesn't mean compromising cover. Unlike some other plans of a similar price, Primecare places no financial limits on surgeons' and anaesthetists' fees. And unlike some others, we even offer you a no-claims discount of up to 50%.

Why pay more than you need?

**Prime Health**

A member of the Standard Life Group

Call 0800 77 99 55 now, or fill in the coupon for a no-obligation quote.

Title		First name		Surname	
Address					
Postcode					
Phone (inc. STD code) Day			Evening		
Date of birth of the oldest person requiring cover					
Cover required: Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Family <input type="checkbox"/> Single parent family <input type="checkbox"/>					
Renewal date of current insurance (if applicable)					
If you'd prefer a representative to visit please tick box <input type="checkbox"/>					
Please post to (no stamp required) Prime Health Limited, FREEPOST, (G1 2B2)					
Bridford G1 4BR. <a href="http://www.primehealth.co.uk">http://www.primehealth.co.uk</a>					

MO6755NG

### THE TOP TEN COOLEST CARS IN BRITAIN

1. Mercedes S600	Price: £102,490	Super luxurious limousine with double glazing and a climate control system among the most powerful of any car in the world
2. BMW 7-series	Price: £36,935 to £73,455	One of the most sought-after executive cars which BMW boasts has as much computer power on board as the Space Shuttle
3. Volvo V70	Price: £18,970 to £28,720	Re-designed by Englishman Peter Horbury, the sleeker Volvos offer creature comforts as well as traditional ruggedness
4. Audi A8	Price: £35,205 to £54,410	Sleek high-tech BMW challenger with all aluminium body and new solar powered air-con system to keep the car cool while the driver is away
5. Lexus LS400	Price: £32,000 to £42,000	The Japanese car (made by Toyota) which challenges the Mercedes for technical proficiency. Air-con system similar to that in Jaguar and Nissans
6. Audi A6	Price: £22,000 to £29,970	Just launched in Britain as a challenger in the BMW 3-series sector, with radical new designs and high equipment levels, including standard air-con
7. Jeep Grand Cherokee	Price: £18,970 to £28,720	Big, brash challenger to Range Rover which brings USA-cooling power to Britain, generated via a meaty range of engines, from 2.5 to 5-litres
8. BMW 5-series	Price: £18,970 to £28,720	Acknowledged by many pundits as the best car in the world, packed with high-technology, with easy-to-see dashboard including sophisticated air-con system
9. Vauxhall Omega	Price: £18,970 to £28,720	Executive cruisers much favoured by travelling senior managers who need to keep cool on the motorway between important appointments
10. Renault Megane Scenic	Price: £18,970 to £28,720	Europe's Car of the Year which combines practicality with comfort, emphasising systems such as air-conditioning which keep the family cool on holiday trips



# Cycle wheels turned a leisure revolution

The advent of the train and the bike brought a new freedom that helped urban masses to escape the drudgery of the working week, writes **Damian Whitworth**



BEFORE Victoria's ascent to the throne, leisure time was rare for those at the bottom of the pile: drudgery was punctuated occasionally by religious festivals and drunken release in the gin shop. But the nation's rising prosperity bought spare time for many more of the population.

In part, the change was prompted by altruistic reformers, but there was also a commercial element: a happy and properly rested workforce was a productive workforce. That is not to say that life was easy. For the new industrial working class, hours were still long and conditions often harsh. But Factory Acts in the 1840s and 1850s reduced the length of the working day and many people were given a half day off on Saturday in addition to Sunday.

There were further cuts in the working day in the 1870s and the Prince of Wales set an example when he became more flexible about forgoing revelry on the sabbath, and threw parties on Sunday eve-

nings. The many thousands living cramped together in urban environments created a boom in public entertainment, with drama, opera and ballet flourishing in grand new theatres, and the music hall drawing huge crowds.

Perhaps the biggest change in the way that the population spent its free time was the stampede to escape the towns. The advent of the railway gave birth to the day trip and the extended holiday. Resorts sprang up all around the coast at the end of railway lines.

Queen Victoria possibly did more than any other individual to create the British tourist industry. Her trip to the west of Scotland in 1847, for example, inaugurated the holiday industry in the area. Her sojourns at Osborne House

began a tradition of royal promotion of the Isle of Wight, which continues today with the Royal Family's annual visits to the Cowes regatta.

The railway was not the only way to explore the countryside. Cycling quickly gained popularity once a model had been created that did not threaten serious injury to both rider and pedestrians.

Initially the adventure of the bicycle lay not in the new vistas that could be explored but in managing to stay in the saddle. After unsuccessful predecessors such as the pedal-less hobby horse, the boneshaker was invented in 1868. This had wooden wheels and iron tyres, and the pedals that made it the ancestor of the modern bike. It did not have a chain, however, and the ped-

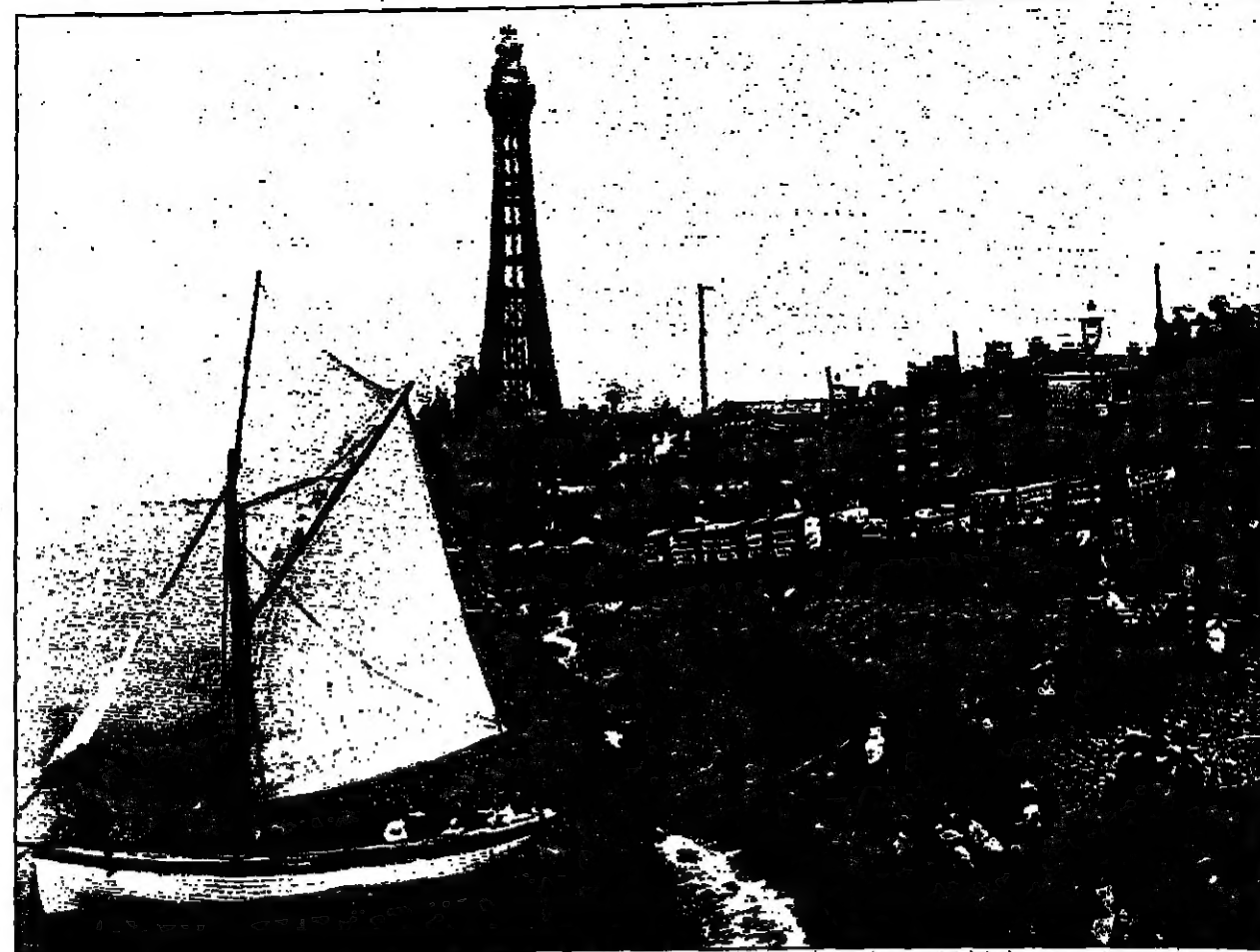
als were attached to the front wheel, which made descending hills particularly hazardous. The boneshaker was followed by the ordinary, better known as the penny-farthing, which required the rider to sit a perilous 5ft above the ground while weaving along the highway.

The first modern-looking machine was Mr Stanley's Safety Bicycle, produced by Rover from 1885. It had wheels of equal size, pedals and a chain. When Dunlop introduced pneumatic tyres in 1888, the success of bicycles was assured.

Cycling clubs sprang up across the land, with groups talking to roads that motor cars had yet to turn into dust-tracks.

By the late 1880s, cycling had become modish among women, after a revolution in undergarments that had been partly inspired by the desire to pedal with modesty intact. Thick petticoats were ousted by knickerbockers, at first long and frilly so that if a glimpse of them were caught they might be mistaken for petticoats. The freedom of movement they afforded made them an important contribution to women's emancipation.

For those without the time, inclination or financial ability to escape the towns and cities, the creation of public parks provided open spaces for recreation. Association football and rugby gained mass appeal and W.G. Grace's



Never a dull moment: Blackpool in the 1890s, when the tower was the world's second highest building.

## The seaside outing that never stopped

**Blackpool's old heart is beating fast, says Damian Whitworth**

A HUNDRED years ago, Blackpool was already the boldest, brashiest seaside town in Britain. Victorian entrepreneurs created a resort dedicated to the pleasure of the masses. Their vision was so strong, that holidaymakers are still flocking to enjoy the attractions.

William Flimster-Sankey, of the Victorian Society, says "Blackpool is still packed with people dancing, only now they are stuffed into discos and amusement arcades. The principle is still there - if there were any principles."

At the beginning of the 19th century, the Lancashire town was a watering hole for gentry who rolled up in their coaches for a bracing dip. When Victoria ascended the throne in 1837, it had just 730 occupants. At her death in 1901, it had 48,000, not counting the summer pilgrimages.

The railway had arrived in 1846. Soon the Lancashire and Yorkshire line began running cheap excursions. The cotton industry had established a practice of giving employees annual holidays, so when mills closed for summer breaks, the seaside landladies opened their doors and tens of thousands of people saw the sea for the first time.

Not content just to frolic beside the sea, the Victorians wanted to walk on it. The first of the three great piers at Blackpool was the North Pier, constructed by Eugenius Birch, the leading light of pier building, in 1863. While the

stronger than any yet experienced on that coast.

The tower instantly became the trademark of Blackpool. It was built as a landmark to the sea, and the view from the top was said to be the best in the world. The tower was built by Frank Matcham, who also designed the tower at the Hackney Empire, London, Palladium and Blackpool's thriving Grand Theatre - is packed.

Today the tower and the Winter Gardens are still owned by Michael Grade's First Leisure. A century ago they were locked in competition. The glass dome of the Winter Gardens could be seen by passengers as they disembarked at the station. Boardings boasted "enter at once" and "exit at once" signs.

The odd dance hall may have disappeared, theme parks and amusement arcades may clog the streets, but Blackpool was always about cheap fun. In among the more modern monstrosities, the spirit and some of the Victorian glory remain.

Blackpool Tower, open daily 10am-11pm. Admission £5. Family ticket £15. Circus £2 extra per person. Admission to the Winter Gardens is free. Show prices vary.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Violence on flight forces jet to land

A charter jet carrying 235 holidaymakers to the Canary Islands made an emergency landing in Faro, Portugal, after a passenger reportedly became drunk and violent. Portuguese police were called to the Britannia Airways Boeing 757 and took the man from Newcastle, into custody. The airline said that it would consider suing him for the cost of the diversion.

#### Lake inquiry

Police studied aerial photographs of Coniston Water in the Lake District and used sonar tracking equipment in an attempt to identify the body found in the lake last week. The body of a woman in her twenties, dressed in a nightdress, is thought to have been in the lake for about 25 years.

#### Beating law

Teachers hitting pupils became a criminal offence in Ireland yesterday, 15 years after corporal punishment was banned. The move was welcomed by Ireland's Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, which also called for a legal ban on corporal punishment in the home.

#### Dunblane roses

Two new varieties of rose were planted in Dunblane, named in honour of the primary school teacher and her 16 pupils murdered in the town. Gwen Mayor, a hybrid tea rose, and Innocence, a bushy patio variety, were bred in Aberdeen. Money from sales will go to Dunblane charities.

TIME'S RUNNING OUT.  
OUR 30th ANNIVERSARY SALE  
ENDS ON 31st AUGUST.



All good things must come to an end, and unfortunately that includes the Daewoo Sale.

- SALE 1. £500 cashback.
- SALE 2. £500 worth of fuel vouchers.
- SALE 3. The choice of up to £750 worth of Daewoo electronic products.
- SALE 4. £500 towards your deposit with Daewoo Direct Finance. Typical APR 11.2%.

So hurry if you want to benefit from one of these offers available to every private customer buying a new car (written details available on request).

But don't worry, as you'd expect every

new Daewoo still comes with the following peace of mind package as standard:

- 1.) 3 year/60,000 mile free servicing.
- 2.) 3 year/60,000 mile comprehensive warranty. And on orders placed before 31st August, 3 years free comprehensive insurance, subject to status. Daewoo's fixed prices, including delivery and 12 months road tax, start from just £9,445. To find out where your nearest store is, call us on 0800 666 222.

SALE OFFERS AND 3 YEARS PEACE OF MIND? THAT'LL BE THE DAEWOO.

Renewing in July or August?

Save up to

**£50.**

Save on home insurance premiums.

Just give us a call and you could save up to £50 a year with Alliance & Leicester's buildings and contents insurance. We'll give you an instant quote, instant discounts, even instant cover.

More cover for less money.

- New for old cover
- 24-hour free local and emergency repairs
- Extra cover for stolen items
- 10% discount on replacement value
- Free replacement of lost keys

Instant discounts

• Local discount
- Alarm discount
- System discount

Call FREE

**0500 50 40 80**

LINES OPEN 9AM - 5PM WEEKDAYS 9AM - NOON SATURDAY

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER



THE TIMES WEDNESDAY AUGUST 20 1997

# Sale row over playing fields put out to grass

A decaying sports ground where London's children played is a test case against development, writes John Goodbody

THE playing fields which were once the pride of the Inner London Education Authority are to become the first test of the Government's policy to stop the sale of sports grounds needed by schools and communities.

The 86-acre Priest Hill sports centre in Ewell, Surrey, deserted for 15 years, once boasted 30 hard tennis courts, 18 football, nine rugby and eight hockey pitches, eight cricket squares and extensive athletics facilities. The site is one of a number of former

sports centres around London, owned by the authority, on which millions of schoolchildren, including Linford Christie, Daley Thompson and John Barnes, used to play. But whereas the others have been preserved, Priest Hill fell into disuse in 1982, when schools stopped transporting pupils from the capital and the fields became surplus to educational requirements.

Although local schools and clubs are eager to rent the facilities, the new owners are reluctant to grant long leases

in case redevelopment plans are restricted. In the meantime, gypsies and vandals have invaded the grounds, dumping rubbish on the overgrown grass and ruined tennis courts. Trespassers have wrecked the pavilion and groundsmen's houses.

After schools stopped using the site, ownership was transferred to the Greater London Council and then to the London Residuary Body, set up to dispose of GLC property. In 1987, Adrian Stonebridge, a local tennis coach, ran a series



The 86-acre Priest Hill site in Ewell, Surrey, has suffered from vandalism and years of neglect

of lessons for children but the LRB would not agree to a long-term commitment. In 1989, Priest Hill was sold for almost £2 million to Combined Counties Properties of Esher, which

has subsequently tried to put together a series of redevelopment plans, one including a golf course and hotel, which would be financially viable and satisfy green belt regulations. Planning permission for the golf course has now expired.

The Sports Council and Epsom and Ewell Borough Council both admit that the "wasted acres" of Priest Hill are an unfortunate victim of legislation and red tape. Alan Silcock, southeast senior regional officer with the Sports Council, said: "Fifteen years of playing sport has largely been lost and still no one knows whether the site will be developed or not."

The situation has frustrated schools and residents. Peter Brooks, headmaster of Kingswood House, Epsom, said that he was seeking new playing fields. Martin Patmore, the manager of Glyn ADT technology school, said that his school might like to lease part of the site.

Karen Sanders-Mallard, whose house borders Priest Hill, said: "We are fed up. In my nine years here, I once saw some polo being played, but nothing else."

Richard Harris, the borough community services officer, said that the council was still looking to Combined Counties Properties to put together a package which might include some commercial development but respected the green belt. No one from Combined Counties Properties was available for comment.

A spokesman for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport said that the situation was regrettable. Planning controls — including the policy, announced two months ago, to halt the sale of playing fields — would be taken into account if any plan was called in by the Department of the Environment.

The National Playing Fields Association said yesterday that at least 250 acres of recreational land had come under threat from developers since last autumn. The association wrote to Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, last week urging the Government to list important playing fields on the same basis as conservation areas.

## M25 jambuster runs head-on into opposition

AA says route guide is dangerous, writes Peter Foster

AN ENTREPRENEUR who became so fed up with sitting in traffic jams on the M25 that he produced a guide on how to avoid them has been attacked by motoring organisations and residents living on the alternative routes he suggests.

M25 Guide, written by Neil Atkinson, a former computer software salesman, details routes for skirting congestion on the road that has been called Britain's biggest car park.

It ran into immediate opposition from the Automobile Association when it was launched yesterday. The organisation said it would endanger lives, creating dangerous rat-runs through outlying towns and villages. "We're not happy with this book at all," an AA spokesman said. "It will be dangerous because the majority of accidents occur on non-motorway routes, and increasing traffic off the M25 will just lead to more congestion and pollution in these rural areas."



The guide could be the first of a series

People living on one of the alternative routes in Surrey, the A304 in Staines, joined the AA in condemning the guide. Stephen and Louise Gomm, who live on the edge of the advised detour between junctions 13 and 14, said the guide would increase traffic noise and pollution on an already busy road.

Mr Gomm said he was particularly concerned for his eight-month-old twins, Leonie and Alexander. "You can see

the black pollution collecting on the window sills. The twins were three months premature and could well do without the additional fumes. Personally, I wanted the M25 scheme to go ahead. Now it's collapsed, they have just shoved the problem on to somebody else."

Their views were echoed by Thora Hall, who has lived on the road, to the west of London, for 31 years. "People don't consider other people any more," she said. "The noise is so bad we can't sleep some nights. If it gets any worse we'll have to shut the windows, but you can't do that in the summer."

Lorraine Goodall, whose house backs on to the busy dual carriageway, said the guide would encourage motorists who had not used the road before to do so. "It is busy in rush-hour but only people who know about it take this route. With this guide things can only get worse."

Mr Atkinson, 29, from Newcastle upon Tyne, invested £40,000 in the project. Yesterday he defended his idea. "My book is just a cheaper version of satellite navigation systems already available," he said. "I understand the AA's concern, but we've been careful to use dual carriageways wherever possible and to avoid rural areas."

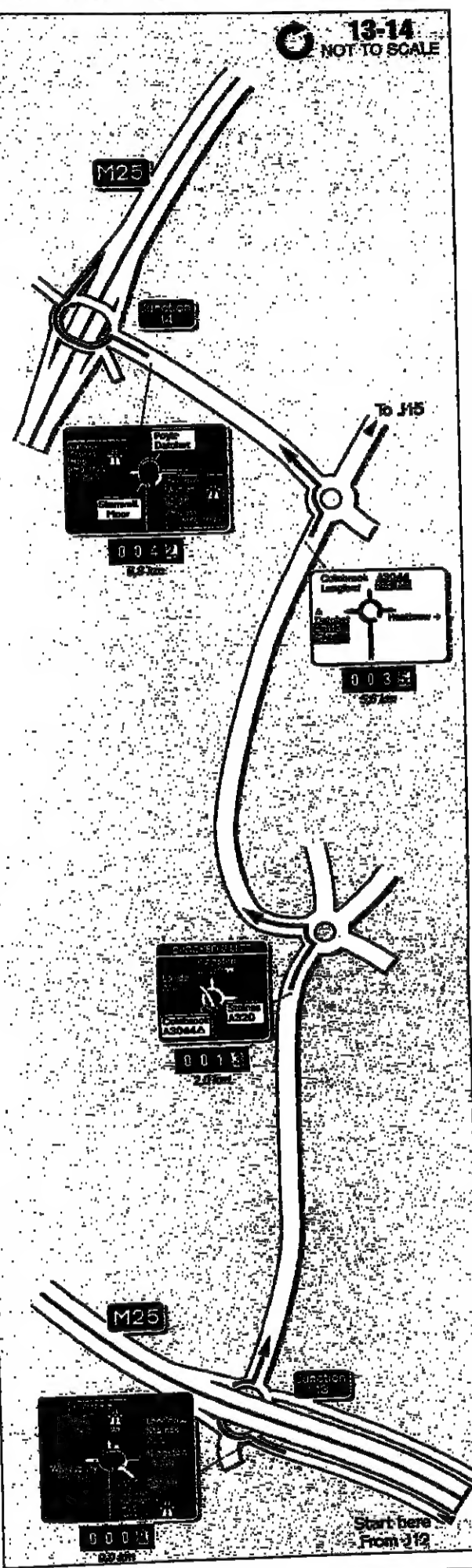
The idea for the guide came to him while he was working for a company in London. "I spent hours sitting on the M25 wasting time and money. A normal road atlas was too cumbersome and lacking in detail, so I decided to launch this," he said.

The guide, which costs £4, will be available from garage forecourts, bookshops, and newsagents. If it proves to be a success, Mr Atkinson plans to tackle other motorway pressure points, such as the M6 around Birmingham.

AA Roadwatch, page 22



Stephen and Louise Gomm say the guide will increase traffic on an already busy road



### SIX-MINUTE DETOUR BEATS QUEUES

Yesterday The Times conducted its own road test to see how effective the M25 Guide is. Finding the traffic jam was easy: as we approached junction 13, near Staines, the overhead warning signs indicated trouble ahead. Preferring the wind in our hair to crawling along in temperatures above 80C, we opted for the alternative route spelt out in the guide, which uses photographs of

road signs and simplified maps. The route, which is clearly marked with red arrows, took us first on to the A308 to Kingston for 1.3 miles. We turned sharp left at the Crooked Billet roundabout on to the A304 towards Colnbrook. The next roundabout took us back to junction 14. The 4.2-mile detour (three miles on the M25) on free-flowing dual carriageways took six minutes.

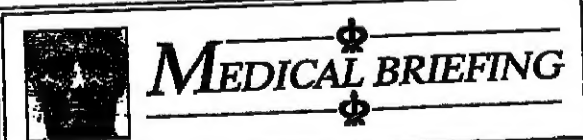
## Getting to the root of what can make hair all white in a night

THE hair of Julie Walters, the actress, turned white after it was found that her daughter, Maisie, had lymphoblastic leukaemia. Her partner was also reported to have gone grey, although Walters concealed the change by dyeing her locks. Maisie is now doing well, and has been in remission for three years.

Stress can hasten the ageing process and there is no doubt that people go grey earlier as a result of anxieties and tragedies. The claim that severe shock has turned patients grey overnight is always met with scepticism by doctors as there is no obvious scientific explanation for it. There are, however, well-documented cases and, despite doctors' scepticism, the phenomenon is not only in the imagination of ghost-story writers.

One explanation could be that pigmented hairs are less firmly rooted than grey hairs, and therefore fall out more readily in the event of fright or disaster. The remaining hairs could then be responsible for the apparent acquisition, overnight, of a full head of grey hair.

Hair colour is the result of differences in the melanin pigment. In black and brown hair the pigment is tyrosine-melanin, while redheads and



Dr Thomas Stuttford

blonds owe the colour to the pigment pheomelanin. Dark-brown hair differs from black hair only because of the different size of the melanin-containing cell whereas light-brown hair is a mixture of different types, some contain-

ing the pigment found in blond hair and others that of black hair. Very bright red hair is the result of the person's hair having an iron-rich pigment, trichosiderin.

Grey hair is caused by a loss of pigmented cells, and the age at which this happens is genetically determined. Grey hairs may sometimes be found in children. My grandfather was completely grey while a medical student at Cambridge and my mother had white hair before she was 30.

A greying head is soon accompanied by changes in the beard and later the body hair. The more the body hair is exposed to light the sooner it goes grey. Hair exposed to sun by an open-neck shirt goes white before that on other parts of the chest usually kept covered. Eyebrows and eyelashes tend to go grey last of all.

Many diseases affect the colour of the hair, and sometimes hair is white when it regrows after patchy baldness. Waardenburg's syndrome is the condition that accounts for streaks of hair, so obvious in the case of Indira Gandhi. The white tuft made the late Prime Minister of India instantly recognisable.

Chloroquine, the anti-malarial which is blamed by expatriates for so many ills, can occasionally cause depigmentation of the hair, but only in blonds and redheads. Brunettes are able to retain their lustrous colour in spite of their weekly dose of chloroquine.



Julie Walters went grey after her daughter's illness. Indira Gandhi's streak followed her own ill-health

1997 'Top Direct Lender Over Two Years' - What Mortgage Magazine.

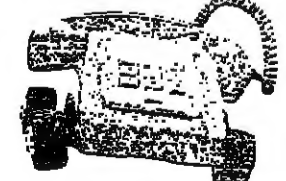
## Cheaper mortgages.

\* Mortgage example of £80,000 repayable over 25 years (390 monthly payments).

Lender	APR (Variable)	Monthly Repayments (after tax relief)	Monthly saving with Direct Line	Total Payable (gross)
WOOLWICH	8.7%	£605.30	£49.81	£191,248
HALIFAX	8.6%	£604.48	£48.99	£190,538
ALLIANCE & LEICESTER	9.0%	£617.01	£61.52	£195,372
DIRECT LINE	7.5%	£555.49	-	£174,068

APRs based on Standard Variable Rate Repayment mortgages, correct at 13th August 1997. Source: Moneyfacts. MRAS has been calculated under current tax legislation which may alter.

- Want to save money? You don't need a fixed rate mortgage, you need a Direct Line mortgage.
- As the table shows our variable rate mortgage could save you around £50\* per month.
- You can borrow up to 90% of the value of your home.
- Free valuation.
- No early redemption, arrangement or mortgage indemnity fees.
- We guarantee to save you 20% on your existing buildings insurance.
- If you transfer your mortgage without moving house Direct Line will pay your legal fees†.
- Don't let interest rate rises get the better of you, for a cheaper mortgage call Direct Line.



0181 649 9099 LONDON 0161 831 9099 MANCHESTER 0141 221 9099 GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. TT102 www.directline.co.uk A Royal Bank of Scotland company.

Mortgages provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G1 5SH. Direct Line mortgages from £20,000 to £300,000 are available for up to 90% of the property valuation or purchase price, whichever is the lower. Applicants must be aged 18 to 65 and Direct Line Financial Services Limited reserves the right to decline any application. Life assurance to cover the amount of the loan and security in the form of a first legal charge (Standard Security - Scotland) over the property will be required. The property must be fully insured for the duration of the loan. All rates quoted are for standard variable rate mortgages. The standard valuation fee will be refunded to the borrower once the mortgage is set up (for the mortgage quoted the fee would be £119). The guaranteed insurance saving only applies if your current insurance is arranged by your lender and is subject to our normal underwriting criteria. The guaranteed insurance saving only applies if you decide to use your own solicitor to carry out the work involved in the transfer of your mortgage and the fees amount to more than £300. Direct Line will pay the difference up to a maximum of £200. This is a limited offer and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Written quotations are available on request. Some mortgages may require payment of a fee to the existing lender when being transferred. For your added security telephone calls may be recorded and the recording kept secure. We may also monitor telephone calls with the aim of improving our service to you. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Direct Line and the red telephone on wheels are the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc and used with its permission.



# Jury says implant firm hid risks

A JURY in New Orleans has found that a major chemical company did not properly test its silicone breast implants for safety in humans, paving the way for potentially massive payouts in compensation to thousands of women, several of them British.

The jury also found that the company, Dow Chemical, deliberately concealed information about the risks to women's health posed by the silicone in the implants.

The finding comes in the first-ever class-action suit brought against a breast implant manufacturer by women alleging silicone-induced injury. The case involves claims made by 1,800 American women. If successful, the precedent could assist up to 10,000 British women, all of whom have registered private claims against a clutch of American companies, in securing compensation. Although this is only the first stage in what promises to be a long court battle, the jury's finding is a big setback for Dow Chemical, which owns half of Dow Corning, at one time America's largest implant producer. Dow Corning has filed for bankruptcy.

Dow Chemical has reacted furiously to the jury's decision, arguing

Massive payouts may follow a US ruling that health risks of silicone were kept secret, writes Tunku Varadarajan

that the design, testing and manufacture of the breast implants were done by Dow Corning alone. John Musser, Dow Chemical's director of public affairs, said: "The company had no way of knowing which silicone compounds were to be used in medical implants."

Matters have been complicated by the fact that Dow Corning will be left out of the present case until the separate bankruptcy proceedings have been resolved.

However, the women who filed the original lawsuit welcomed the ruling. Peggy Muscarel, one of the plaintiffs, said: "The doctors we went to — they think we are nuts. This proves we're not nuts."

The case now moves to the second, forensic phase, which promises to be even more complicated than the first, five-month phase. Next month the jury will have to

decide whether the injuries which the claimants allege are directly attributable to the silicone in their breast implants and not to any other cause. Furthermore, the women will have to convince the jury that they would not have undertaken breast surgery had they been fully aware of any risks involved.

The women have not sued for specific damages, as the law in Louisiana requires plaintiffs to file for unspecified compensation. The size of the award is determined exclusively by the jury. If successful, however, the case could reap billions of dollars for the claimants.

An indication of the potential size of the compensation comes from Dow Corning's 1994 offer of a global out-of-court settlement of \$4.25 billion (£2.6 billion). That offer failed to attract enough takers, with women arguing that it was insufficient. It was made when the company was in a stronger legal position than it is now.

The jury's finding that the manufacturer suppressed information relating to risks is likely to inflame that figure still further. There is a strong likelihood, also, of punitive damages being assessed against the manufacturers.



Palestinians set up camp on the Mount of Olives in protest at the Jewish state's confiscation of their Israeli identity cards. Israel has been taking away their cards if they make their homes outside east Jerusalem, thereby losing their right to live in the holy city

Over the last year BT has cut the cost of calls to every country in the world.



The cost of reaching some destinations is now 40% less than a year ago.  
Join BT's PremierLine and Friends & Family schemes and you can save an extra 25% on top.  
For information on BT's discounts call 24 hour Freefone 0800 003 800.

The cost of calling keeps on falling BT

PremierLine is suitable for customers spending more than £45 per quarter on calls and costs £6 per quarter. Excludes BT public payphone and BT Chargecard calls. Friends & Family is not available with the Light User scheme.

## Israel threatens to retaliate for rocket barrage

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Prime Minister gave a warning of severe retaliation if Lebanese Hezbollah guerrilla fighters continue attacking civilian areas along the northern border of the Jewish state.

Benjamin Netanyahu, speaking yesterday during a tour of Kiryat Shmona, one of the towns hit by Katyusha rockets fired from southern Lebanon into the Galilee region of northern Israel, said: "The immediate task is to halt the cycle of escalation which does not serve the interests of any side. We want quiet on both sides of the northern border so that Israeli and Lebanese citizens can conduct their lives peacefully."

He said: "However, Israel will respond severely to any attacks on its citizens and I hope that this message — in all its implications — will be understood by the other side."

The Katyusha rocket barrage came in two waves: the first, at 7am, fell all over the Galilee, and the second volley, about 1½ hours later, hit only western Galilee. In all, about 40 rockets landed, slightly injuring three people, but caused considerable damage to buildings and power lines.

Mr Netanyahu held Syria, the main political power broker in Lebanon and which has 30,000 soldiers inside the country, responsible for failing to prevent Hezbollah from launching the attacks. "There has to be every effort by Syria,

which controls Hezbollah, to stop these firings," he said.

Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed Islamic militant group, said the attacks were in revenge for the clashes in Lebanon on Monday in which at least nine people died and scores more were injured. Then, for the first time in more than a year, the Lebanese city of Sidon, came under artillery attack by the South Lebanese Army (SLA), an Israeli-backed local militia. Israel has admitted that the attack was the sole initiative of an SLA commander and was wrong.

The SLA attack led Beirut to condemn Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon. Faris Bouze, its Foreign Minister, said yesterday: "The Israeli occupation of the south is a very negative situation for Israel. The south is a real Israeli Vietnam," he said in reference to America's troubled involvement in Southeast Asia in the 1960s and 1970s. "The only way for the Israelis to stop this problem is to fully withdraw from southern Lebanon."

Mr Bouze also accused Mr Netanyahu of trying to sabotage Middle East peace agreements. "He is trying to end, or to terminate the Oslo agreement and at the same time he is trying to change the nature and the goal of the eventual mission of [US] Secretary of State Madeleine Albright — trying to talk about security and not hear about politics."

## Dodi Fayed dines out on anonymity

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

UP CLOSE and personal, the heir to the Harrods fortune looks older and grayer than when viewed through the telescopic lenses of Italian paparazzi.

Dodi Fayed, suffering no doubt from jet lag, was barely recognisable when he wandered over to our table at the new Spago in Beverly Hills within hours of touching down in California.

He wore a beige linen suit with a Nehru collar, and the wary look of a fox who had found temporary refuge from the hounds of Fleet Street. Had he known he was stumbling into a *Times* Magazine interview with Wolfgang Puck, the restaurateur, and his wife, Barbara Lazaroff, he might have backed away.

Instead, he thanked Mr Puck for his meal and offered no comment on the legal battle being waged against him by a model who claims they were engaged until last week. No comment either, on reports that an Egyptian woman in a Canadian jail may be responsible for at least 19 other lawsuits filed against him in California's courts.

Mr Fayed may be faulted for his media silence, but not for his power-lunching instincts. There is probably no restaurant on earth where he could have been more confident of being surrounded by customers more famous than himself than Mr Puck's establishment on North Canon

Drive, Spago Beverly Hills, which opened in April, has a menu to deter all but millionaires and agents on expense accounts. (If you have one, try the shaved summer truffles over roast Maine lobster.)

It was also designed specifically to cater to film stars' erratic seating whims. John Travolta and Hugh Grant like to face the perimeter of the dark interior courtyard for virtual invisibility. Ms Lazaroff confided, Marvino Davies, the oil tycoon and sometime owner of Paramount Pictures, goes indoors for warmth.

Mr Fayed ate lunch in a side booth with the actor Christopher Lambert and barely turned a head.

His pursuit of privacy in America has been made easier by a striking lack of interest in his romance with Diana, Princess of Wales, among local media. The lawsuit filed against him by his former girlfriend, Kelly Fisher, has been greeted with mirth, but also shame at such a vintage case of litigiousness run wild.

As one local reporter yelled at Gloria Allred, Miss Fisher's lawyer: "Beautiful young women are always being led halfway up the aisle and then jilted. What's so special about your client?" The attorney and her client disappeared to regroup. The story has featured on the local television news as a purely comic item.

Nigella Lawson, page 13



# Survivor of the Titanic finally arrives in US

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

MILLVINA DEAN, an 85-year-old woman from Southampton, has finally set foot in the American house that would have been hers had the Titanic not gone down in 1912. Only nine months old when she was bundled into a sack and lowered to a lifeboat, she was the youngest survivor.

"I can't bear cold drinks — the iceberg, you know," said Miss Dean when offered a chilled glass of cola at the home in Kansas City, Missouri. "Perhaps some champagne, though," she said, after a pause.

A retired secretary, Miss Dean was received warmly by the Levi family, who live in "her" house. "Welcome home, Millvina," said Matt Levi. "It is all completely unreal to me," confessed Miss Dean. "I never thought for a minute that I'd ever be here."

In 1912, Miss Dean's father, Bertram Dean, sold his London pub in order to move to America. He had dreams of a better, richer life, free from the drudgery of pulling pints and sipping beer-drinkers. His goal was to set up a small tobacconist's shop in Kansas

City, where a cousin, Alfred Norbury, had moved in 1871. Cousin Alfred had wonderful stories to relate and the public was in no doubt that the salubrious American Midwest would be a better place for his young family than the fetid East End of London.

The Deans' dreams, however, crashed sharply into an iceberg. Bertram died, America unseen, when the Titanic sank. Miss Dean's mother, Georgina, and her older brother, Bertram Jr, were among the survivors rescued by the Carpathia.

After a wretched fortnight in a New York hospital, she returned to England, moving to Southampton. Miss Dean has lived there ever since, never marrying and always stammering. Her mother remarried some years after the tragedy, dying in 1975 at the age of 95.

Miss Dean has had a rollicking time since her arrival in Kansas City on Sunday. She has been fêted by the Lewis family, who live at the home of the descendants of Cousin Alfred and been to see the local steamboat museum. Next, she wants to go to Nebraska to see the home of Jesse James, her "favourite outlaw". On Monday, how-



Eighty-five years after her journey began Millvina Dean is met by Matt Levi, left, and his wife, Katie, at the house that was to have been home



Millvina Dean as a baby in her mother's arms in 1912

ever, came the *pièce de résistance* of her visit: Emanuel Cleaver, the Mayor who made her an honorary citizen of Kansas City in 1993, held a civic reception for her. As the cameras flashed and local journalists milled around, she maintained her poise and basked in the attention.

Stalling, she told one reporter that she would only be seeing the "first half" of the forthcoming film on the sinking of the Titanic.

Miss Dean, who travelled to America on the QE2 and plans to return on the liner later this year said: "I love the sea. I never had any emotions about the Titanic. I was too young,

for one thing. I didn't know my father, and my mother never spoke about it."

It was not until she was eight years old that she learnt what had happened to her father. Because of this the Dean family story was not widely known to members of the Titanic Historical Society until 1987, when Miss Dean attended a memorial service for disaster victims in England.

Today she has become the most public face of the disaster. As such, she is of vast interest to the more than 5,000 members of the society. One of them is Michael Rudd, head of Kansas City's Travel Market-

ing Associates. Mr Rudd arranged Miss Dean's Kansas City visit after locating the home on Harrison Street in the city's Hyde Park section.

Miss Dean is one of the last of a dwindling band of Titanic survivors and is by far the most energetic. With the death in January of Edith Haisman, aged 100, the number of survivors is now down to seven. The others are: Barbara West, of Plymouth; Louise Larocque, of Paris; Michel Navratil, of Montpelier; Eleanor Shuman, of Elgin, Illinois; Lillian Asplund of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts; and Winifred van Tongerloo, of Warren, Michigan.



An artist's impression of the sinking of the Titanic

## Quinn 'beat wife over his affairs'

New York: The son of Anthony Quinn, the actor, has told a court that when his mother mentioned her husband's extramarital affairs his father would hit her until she had bruises on her arms.

Danny Quinn, 33, also an actor, was the first witness in what threatens to be a bitter divorce hearing. He said the trouble usually started at the dinner table. "My mother would say something about his extramarital affairs... Then he'd throw something — dishes, glass — at her, and sometimes he'd hit her."

The 32-year-old winner of two Academy Awards and his second wife of 30 years, Italian-born Isabella Quinn, 62, are fighting over Quinn's assets — which are reportedly worth at least \$20 million (£12.5 million) — in Manhattan Supreme Court. Quinn now has two children by Kathy Bervin, 35, his former secretary.

## Fury as Montserrat islanders flee volcano

BY DAVID ADAMS IN MONTSERRAT AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

POLICE with riot shields broke up a demonstration on the island of Montserrat yesterday, dispersing a mob protesting about overcrowding in housing for refugees from the island's volcano.

The protesters set up roadblocks and demanded information about a promised voluntary evacuation assistance package from Britain, said Eugene Skerritt, the permanent secretary to the British colony's Chief Minister.

"The situation in the country is extremely tense," he said. "There is a certain sense of loss. Tempers are getting pretty high."

The demonstration came as the Soufriere Hills volcano erupted again, sending up a 10,000ft ash cloud. Officials were expecting further eruptions.

Claire Short, Britain's International Development Secre-

tary, said yesterday that a voluntary evacuation from the island would go ahead tomorrow. "People will be helped to go to Antigua... and then given choices about their longer term decisions," she said. They would be given the choice of settling elsewhere in the Caribbean or in Britain.

Some residents who were forced to abandon their homes after eruptions last weekend have been sleeping in their cars.

Many of the estimated 4,000 people still living on Montserrat had said they could not afford to leave, and had nowhere to go.

Some protesters also spoke out against what they saw as government coercion to abandon the island.

"Those who can afford to will run, but what about those who can't?" asked Emmanuel White, a protester.

The demonstration followed the refusal of Bertrand Osborne, the Chief Minister, to disclose terms of the financial package being worked out for those who want to flee.

Officials announced on Saturday that they were preparing for the voluntary evacuation.

About 50 demonstrators, many of them unemployed and young, used empty petrol drums, rocks and a wooden church pew to block a road that links Salem — which has served as a commercial centre since Plymouth, the capital, was evacuated last year — to the south. They jeered police who cleared the junction and extinguished a small fire. There was no violence and no arrests.

Nearly two-thirds of Montserrat's 11,000 residents have left the island since the volcano erupted in July last year.

## Red tape puts pilots in stressful spin

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE United States Air Force, reeling from a spate of adultery cases and high-level resignations, faced accusations yesterday of creating an environment so stressful that pilots were resorting to drink and divorce.

A confidential report by the Rand Corporation, a private Washington think-tank used by the Pentagon to analyse military policy, quoted fighter and bomber commanders blaming senior officers for pushing them into pointless field exercises and needless inspections. Combined with overseas duties, that left pilots little time for training battle skills and led

to high stress levels, problem drinking, broken marriages and low morale.

Researchers surveyed hundreds of group, squadron and aircraft commanders at three USAF wings and emerged with a document in which respondents described the service as "broken" in the way its bureaucracy was planned.

"Relationships take the biggest hit," one officer said. "In our squadron we had the highest divorce rate in Air Combat Command at one time. It is terrible watching wives drink themselves to partial liver failure and be bitter at the husband, air force and life. It doesn't make for a great family life."

The report has arrived at a difficult time for the USAF. In May, Kelly Flinn,

America's first female B52 pilot, received a general discharge from the service after a highly publicised case of adultery. A month later General Joseph Ralston, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was forced to withdraw his bid to be head of the armed services after revelations of an adulterous liaison.

General Ronald Fogleman, head of the air force, who has been presented with the findings, is to retire a year early next month over a disagreement with William Cohen, the Defence Secretary.

Robert Maginnis, a retired army officer, described the Rand report as a dire warning for the Pentagon. "It shows a lack of faith in senior leadership. The stress stuff is what is driving them out."

## CASH FOR QUESTIONS.

power yourself with a Mercantile Credit Loan

Applying for an unsecured loan from Mercantile Credit really is straightforward, whether you're borrowing £500 or £15,000.

Take the test opposite — with a score of 12 or more, it's well worth calling us about a Mercantile Credit loan. But even if you have a score of 11 or less, we'll take all your personal circumstances into account when you call to apply.

Your monthly repayments are fixed, and we'll give you up to seven years to pay us back.

You don't need any deposit or security. We guarantee a quick decision. And we're open every day from 7am to 11pm.

So now you've completed our 5 easy questions we have just one more — why not call us free now?

PHONE FOR A FAST LOAN — QUOTING REF 4889

0800 111 777

OR, COMPLETE THE COUPON OPPOSITE.

MERCANTILE CREDIT CHECK					
1. How old are you?					Score
under 25		over 25			
0		5			
2. Where do you live?					Score
With parents	Rent	Rent	Own	Own	
0	1	2	4	5	
3. How long have you lived there?					Score
Under 2 years	2-4 years	5-8 years	9-14 years	15 years or more	
1	2	3	4	5	
4. What do you earn a year?					Score
£10,000+	£15,000+	£20,000+			
1	2	3			
5. How long have you been with your current employer?					Score
Under 2 years	2-4 years	5-8 years	Over 9 years		
1	2	4	5		
This test is for your information only. It does not necessarily reflect the weight we give to any factor. It does not include many of the factors considered in evaluating a loan request such as payment history and your ability to service your monthly obligations. Final loan approval is not guaranteed by any score on this list.					Total Score
MERCANTILE CREDIT					
Please complete coupon by sending me details of your direct personal loans. (Send completed coupon to Mercantile Credit, PO Box 117, FREEPOST SEA 8821, Crawley, West Sussex RH11 2BP. No stamp required.)					
Name <input type="text"/>					
Address <input type="text"/>					
Postcode <input type="text"/> Telephone <input type="text"/>					

## There's no disguising problem toenails



Thick, brittle, discoloured toenails may be caused by a fungal infection. For a free leaflet and advice on how they can be cured write to STEPWISE, FREEPOST PAM 6610, Dept AT, PO BOX 5314, LONDON W6 0BR, or call FREEPHONE 0800 200 210.

FREEPHONE 0800 200 210

## Sure way to the heart is through the wallet

BY TOM RHODES

A MAN'S wallet is more attractive than his biceps and a woman's financial security ranks a close second to her good looks, according to a new survey.

Money has become the overriding consideration in relationships throughout the United States, according to findings from 21 of the country's biggest cities presented to the American Psychological Association.

For women, cash flow outranks a man's physical attractions, education or occupation, while men place only physical beauty above a woman's bank statement, rating a potential wife's income as far more important than her age, race or religion.

It has long been recognised that women prize the earning potential of a future mate, but the latest study by researchers at the University of California at Los Angeles offers a new insight into the value men now place on a woman's economic status.

"We sense that there has been a recent change in this country which recognises that it takes two salaries to make a relationship work," said Belinda Tucker, a UCLA psychologist who conducted the survey. "Religion and background didn't seem to matter at all. Money was clearly now what mattered for men."

Financial strength in a prospective spouse was particularly valued by well-educated white men, blacks under 40, and white women raised by single mothers, the survey revealed.



# Crew brings crippled Mir back to life

By RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW AND NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE three-man crew on Russia's crippled space station Mir restarted their computer system yesterday, restoring control of the tumbling orbiter.

"The work of the computer system is completely restored," a mission control spokeswoman said, adding that the crew would now be able to restore Mir's stable alignment with the Sun.

"The gyroscopes are not yet working," she added, referring to the system that keeps the station optimally placed to accumulate solar energy. The ageing station has to be constantly aligned towards the Sun for its solar panels to produce energy. The spokeswoman said the cosmonauts had fired the engines of their Soyuz spaceship to help to reorientate Mir.

According to mission control, the two Russian cosmonauts and Michael Foale, the British-born NASA astronaut, successfully located and replaced the computer component that had malfunctioned on Monday, sending the craft spinning in orbit and forcing the space station to shut off all but its life-support systems.

The next big repair work, scheduled for later this week, will involve an estimated six

space walks to repair the damage caused in June when a supply ship crashed into Mir's Spektr module. The operation is intended to repair the damaged module and to reconnect vital power cables from Spektr, disconnected after the collision.

Nevertheless, there was little optimism at the Korolyov Space Centre yesterday that the process would go according to plan, after countless mishaps and fears that cost-cutting may cause further setbacks in the days to come.

Viktor Blagov, the deputy head of mission control, complained that, while the Russian space programme used to replace key components on Mir as a matter of routine, these days replacements were only made when parts broke down. The latest computer failure was located in a part that had not been replaced since the space station was launched 11 years ago.

"We used to change Mir's computer parts after its technical life expectancy would run out, say after five years. But now due to financing we have to use them until they die," he added that Russia had to decide whether it wanted its priority in space to be "safety or saving money".

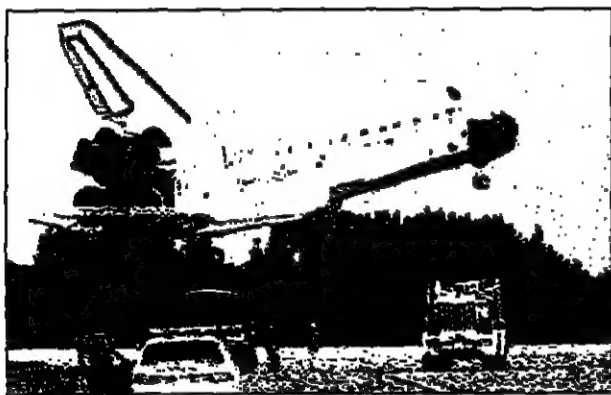
But such is the prestige invested by Russia in the world's only space station that bailing out is not yet an option. Ground controllers know that leaving Mir unmanned would make it even harder to recover later, though they have done it before. The Salyut 7 space station lost all power and drifted for months before being reoccupied.

For the Russians, Mir is one of the few surviving symbols of superpower status. As partners with America and Europe in the planned international space station, they need above all to retain credibility. They are world leaders in time spent in space, so to abandon Mir now would be a humiliating experience.

American behaviour is more difficult to understand. The US space agency NASA would never willingly expose its astronauts to similar dangers on its own spacecraft, yet during Mir's long-drawn-out decline it has acted as a dutiful echo to constant Russian assurances that all is well.

"They're not in any danger," was the latest advice from Kathleen Maliga, the spokeswoman for NASA at Russian mission control. "They're fine. This [computer failure] has happened before."

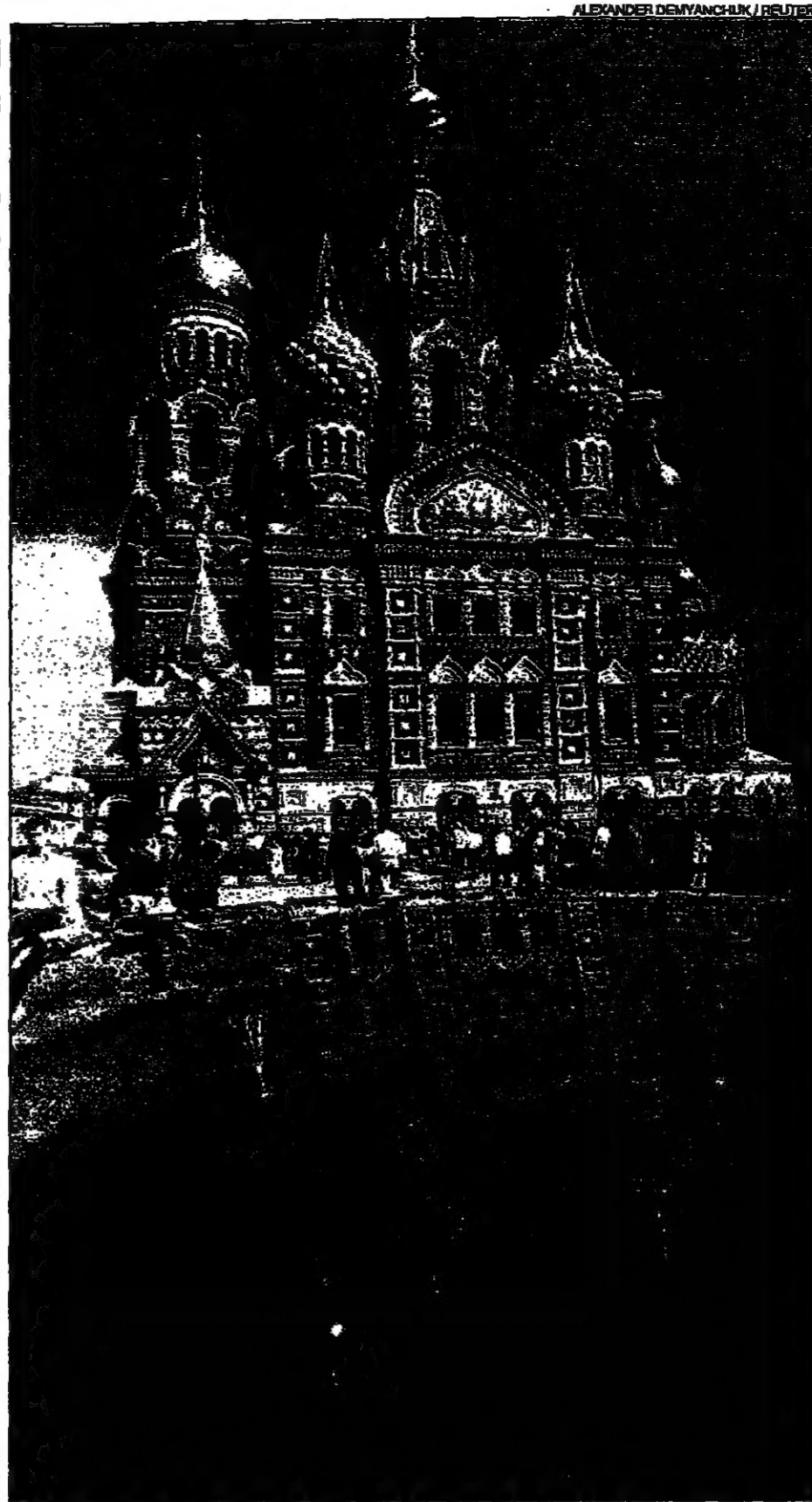
## Shuttle crew returns home



The shuttle lands yesterday at the Kennedy Space Centre

Cape Canaveral: After a day's delay, the space shuttle Discovery and its crew of six returned to Earth yesterday with a satellite containing valuable information about Earth's ozone layer. It landed at Kennedy Space Centre just after sunrise, ending a 12-day mission that covered nearly 5 million miles.

The five US astronauts and one Canadian had worked with an environmental satellite, tested a robot arm for the future international space station and observed the comet Hale-Bopp. (Reuters)



The Church of the Saviour of Spilt Blood, one of St Petersburg's greatest landmarks, yesterday admitted worshippers for the first time in 60 years (Richard Beeston writes). The church was built on the site of the assassination of Tsar Alexander II who, in spite of instituting reforms, was murdered by terrorists in

## St Petersburg church opens

1881. Restoration was completed on the church's exterior in 1992, but it took five more years to restore the extensive mosaic halls, stained-glass windows and marble floors which had

seriously deteriorated under Communism. The church's reopening is part of St Petersburg's campaign to establish itself as Russia's cultural capital and chief tourist destination, but the ceremony was clouded by the assassination of Mayor of St Petersburg, Kravchenko, in 1995.

## Bonn urged to pay East's Nazi victims

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

JEWISH lobbyists, enjoying broad support from the US Senate, yesterday began two days of negotiations with the German Government aimed at securing more German compensation for Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe.

On the eve of the talks, the American Jewish Committee took out full-page advertisements in the American press to print an open letter to Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor. The moral leverage of the Jewish negotiators — led by the Frankfurt-based Jewish Claims Conference — has rarely been more clearly stated.

The letter expressed: "Deep concern about the continued refusal of the German Government to pay pensions to the thousands of elderly Holocaust survivors living in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, even as generous war victims pensions are paid to veterans of the Waffen SS and other Nazi military organisations living in the same countries and elsewhere."

The appeal was signed by 82 senators, led by Senator Christopher Dodd. The cause has also been taken up in talks between President Clinton and Herr Kohl.

Some 13,000 Jewish Holocaust survivors and about 7,000 other persecuted people or former concentration camp inmates have yet to receive any substantial compensation because they lived in Eastern Europe or the former Soviet Union. The German Government has paid some DM100 billion (£34 billion) in compensation since 1949.

Payments were made to 12 countries, all in the West. A 1980 treaty set up a new hardship fund for Jewish survivors, again provided that they lived in the West.

Only two large compensation funds have been set up for Eastern Europe: a DM300 million fund was allocated in 1991 for a German-Polish foundation, and a DM900 million foundation was set up with Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. But these gestures did little for individual victims.

year-old Warsaw pensioner living in a one-room apartment is more fortunate than most. Many of the 500,000 former slave labourers and concentration camp survivors living in Poland have received DM500 (about £170) or less under the 1991 agreement. The compensation is paid according to the number of months of active persecution.

Miss Budnicka was a child in the Warsaw ghetto, was hidden in a hot, almost airless underground coal bunker for six months after the Nazis razed the ghetto in 1943, escaped through the sewers, was protected by Polish partisans and survived the end of the war in a convent. The runs baptised her as a Catholic. The compensation fund has calculated that she suffered for 65 months and has given her an above-average payment of

about £2,000. With the first instalment she bought a television and a washing machine but she feels that she and other Holocaust survivors should be given some more solid form of security. "All we want is a bit of justice," she says. Similar claims are now coming from throughout Eastern Europe. Pensions are paid to all Germans wounded in or bereaved by the war. However, legislation tried to avoid making a distinction between military units, wanting to keep criminal factions out of social welfare legislation. Now, as it emerges that as many as 3,000 SS men and their widows have had a comfortable living, the Government is embarrassed. But to change the law would involve a complete overhaul, since every German is constitutionally entitled to a pension.

Krystyna Budnicka, 65

## COMING TO A SCREEN NEAR YOU

THE TIMES

weather centre

Kazoo

50

Shopping

Internet

OFFER

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

weather centre

50

Internet

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

THE TIMES

Money Minder

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

You can have all this on your PC with LineOne.

An amazing world of on-line entertainment and information.

• One month's FREE membership to LineOne

• 10 hours FREE access to LineOne and the Internet

Call for your FREE software pack now on 0800 111 210



## Plavsic thwarted in bid to seize police station

FROM TOM WALKER IN BANJA LUKA

AN ATTEMPT by Biljana Plavsic, the Bosnian Serb president, to take control of Banja Luka's main police station failed yesterday, as her newly-appointed police commander was arrested by special forces loyal to Radovan Karadzic.

The balance of power in the town's confusing security apparatus became more precarious later in the day, with reports that Momcilo Krajcinovic, the Serb representative on the Bosnian state presidency, and Dragan Kijac, the sacked Interior Minister, were due to arrive, apparently to stage an anti-Plavsic rally.

In the midst of the confusion British troops abandoned their watch over the "public security centre," declaring their job done, a spokesman for Nato's Stabilisation Force (Sfor) said. "Our main concern is that there is no violence or confrontation. The appointment of police officers is an entirely local matter and not of Sfor's concern," Lieutenant Colonel Mike Wright said.

The battle for control of Banja Luka police station is a microcosm of the larger political tussle between Mrs Plavsic and Mr Karadzic, who since the war has controlled Republika Srpska's security forces, siphoning millions of pounds into Swiss bank accounts in the process through smuggling rackets. At last Mr Karadzic's empire seems to be crumbling, but senior policemen, many of them hand-

somely rewarded for their loyalty, are unsure whether to switch allegiance just yet.

"They're trying to estimate where the wind blows and who to join," said an insider at the station. "If Plavsic loses this game then she's lost the Krajina [Banja Luka] region forever, and then she's finished."

The 16 opposition parties in Banja Luka made a radio appeal for the townspeople to stage a counter rally against Mr Krajcinovic. "Police forces are missing in Banja Luka from all other parts of Republika Srpska," they said.

To all outward appearances it was a normal day at the police station, with officers coming and going in good humour. The street in front was still blocked off, however, and outside Mrs Plavsic's presidency building her most trusted police intelligence officer, Major Dragan Lukac,

was anxiously briefing teams of security guards. It was Major Lukac who forced pro-Karadzic officers out of the police station on Sunday, and his special forces have become the front line of defence for Mrs Plavsic. Ironically, Major Lukac is a former bodyguard to Mr Karadzic.

He said Milan Stulovic, the officer appointed by Mrs Plavsic to take control of the police station, had been arrested by Karadzic loyalists led by Dejan Samara, the station's previous commander. Mr Stulovic was asked to sign a paper giving his resignation: he refused, and was said to be resting at home.

"We don't know what's happening," a duty officer said late yesterday. "Stulovic went late yesterday, but he never came back. Samara is in charge."

In a town now alive with conspiracy theories, mystery, also surrounded Jovo Rosic, a constitutional court judge allegedly beaten up by Karadzic forces before last week's crucial veto of Mrs Plavsic's dissolution of parliament. Condemned by Washington and European capitals, the incident helped to bolster Mrs Plavsic's image as the anti-corruption champion to save the Dayton peace accord.

Mr Rosic allegedly received treatment in Banja Luka's Paprikovac hospital, since Friday, however, he has failed to appear in public. The hospital has no record of his stay, and no witnesses to the beating have been found.



Plavsic's special forces arrested her commander

## Nine more killed in the Alps

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE death toll in the Alps rose again yesterday, as the treacherous slopes claimed nine more lives, bringing the number of people killed this summer to over a hundred.

In the Swiss Alps, four climbers died in an ice avalanche at about 13,780 feet. Also in the southern canton of Valais, three workers were killed by a rockslide as they cleared a footpath at 9,200 feet.

Two French climbers, Thierry Renard, 65, and Georges Ripert, 54, fell 1,000 feet to their deaths after one of the men lost his balance in a snowy gully.

The previous day, a German tourist was killed during his descent from the Aiguille Verte, near Mont Blanc. Mountain holidays in summer now claim more lives than winter sports, with at least 40 climbers killed in France more than 30 in Italy and at least 32 in Switzerland this summer.

The number of dead, while not higher than in previous years, show a rise in multiple accidents, with whole parties roped together falling to their deaths. But it is not just high-altitude climbers who are at risk. Mountain rescuers say tourists and day hikers often are unprepared for the conditions, are easily in danger.

About 60 people a day report to the emergency room of Champonix hospital, with broken limbs, twisted ankles or worse.

## Bankrupt winemaker is found shot dead

Wiesbaden: Count Erwein Matschka Greiffenau, the German winemaker, was found dead from a gunshot wound yesterday, the day after his family-run business declared bankruptcy. Police said he apparently shot himself in the head with his 9mm handgun.

The body of Count Matschka, 59, was found on a bench close to his Schloss

Vollrads property in Rheingau, the Rhine valley wine-growing region west of Frankfurt. Police found a farewell letter and a will at his home.

The Matschka vineyards have been in the family for 27 generations. Over the past three years, however, the business fell an estimated DM20 million (£6.8 million) into debt. (AP)

Mercedes OWNERS COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE FROM £170

Quality Rewarded by Low Insurance

Low Cost Schemes for Mercedes

Tel: 0115 920 3220 NOW!

or Phone your Nearest Branch at the Local Rate on 0345 123111

Ask for a quote on the Internet: <http://www.11th.co.uk>

Hill House Hammond

Over 250 Branches Nationwide

BANK OF SCOTLAND BANKING INTEREST RATE

Effect from 26th Aug on the under-noted

Banking Direct Savings

Bank of Scotland Banking

0500 80







# Bohemian rhapsody in Portobello



LEFT: Chevron-stripe knit top, £34.99, and pinstripe skirt, £39.99. CENTRE: Velvet glamour dress, £39.99, and cheetah print mules, £34.99. RIGHT: Harvard check tweed coat, £89.99, Nostalgia Jacquard skirt, £34.99, and white V-neck jumper, £31.99. Available at Oasis branches nationwide, telephone 01865 881968. PHOTOGRAPHER: Manuela Pavesi; Stylist: Claudia Navone; Model: Chrystalle Cervelle; Hair: Aline Pichot; Make-up: Jackie Hamilton-Smith using Max Factor's autumn/winter '97 colours.

## What will be in vogue next season?

## See what's in Vogue this September



See it in Vogue, before it's in vogue.

Oasis has taken the ethos of Portobello Road and woven it into two desirable collections, says Grace Bradberry

It can be only a matter of time before someone bottles the Portobello Road and sells it over the counter at Harvey Nichols. Forget Bond Street, all serious fashion aspirations now tend towards this short stretch of W11.

The eclectic look was born here, as Trustafarians with time on their hands scoured the second-hand stalls and antique shops for lace camisoles, leather coats and old velvet skirts. Unfettered by office dress codes, they wore all these items together, creating a look that is filtering down to the rest of us.

In many ways it is a liberation, an opportunity to wear all the fabrics that at some point or other were deemed to be in bad taste — latex, leather, fake fur, animal-print chiffon. And can you remember any other time in recent memory when it was considered OK to wear velvet during the day?

Nevertheless, the heart does not exactly soar at the prospect of elbowing aside the likes of Kate Moss and Gwyneth Paltrow to bag that elusive slip dress. And oh, the dry-cleaning bills as the item is rendered fit for human habitation.

What a joy then, to discover that an affordable label has reproduced the Portobello look — sized, coordinated and sold amid airy minimalism. Oasis, with its 110 stores, has always tried to stay a little to one side of the main high street track. It has created collections with an identifiable feel or mood, that gesture towards a desirable lifestyle. The last year has seen the clothes become a little more disparate, as fashion goes in a dozen different directions at once.

This autumn, however, Oasis is right back on track, with two complementary collections that are what the fashion industry would describe as "directional". They are also ruthlessly edited in the way that collections in more upmarket shops, such as Whistles, say, or Joseph, would be. The Nostalgia line uses velvet, lace, embroidery and beading, all associated with antique evening wear, but uses them for daytime clothes. The Harvard collection includes more masculine fabrics, such as pinstripes and tweeds. The two groups are designed to be mixed together.

Lynne Burdall, design director at Oasis, says: "We felt the season was going to be more ornate and decorative. We also wanted to get texture in there, with tweeds and checks. Overall, we're doing quite a lot of fabric mixing, putting feminine Jacquard skirts under tweed coats."

Despite its individualistic feel, the collection includes quite a few basic colours, including plenty of black and red. "Our customers will want the clothes to work into their existing wardrobes, though they also want things that look a bit different. We're always trying to get that balance."

Let us miss the point of these carefully structured collections, the clothes have been shot in the Portobello area by Manuela Pavesi, a former fashion editor of Italian Vogue and one of Europe's top photographers. With this star treatment, the clothes come into their own. They boast a languid style that belies the modest price tags. The mix of textures and patterns is subtle, not loud.

Creating a successful high street collection is about picking up on trends fast, and swiftly sorting the possible from the impossible. Leather has great high street potential this year because even in the designer collections it has a retro, almost synthetic, quality that can be emulated at lower price brackets.

When one sees "trash" PVC skirts being paraded on the catwalk, one's mind immediately boggles at the price tag for something that ought to be available for less than £50. The main thing is getting the cut right, and this is the sort of thing a mass-market label can do to perfection.

The latest Oasis collection clearly has taken both these concepts on board.

The latex fabrics are also used to good effect. The little velvet dress shown here has that rather boxy cut at the neck, with a slight drape down into the bust, that designers — including Gucci and Donna Karan — have gone for. But it is casual enough not to appear self-consciously aspiring.

At the other end of the scale, corduroy — a resolutely casual fabric, and a favourite among the Portobello princesses — is used for a relatively formal knee-length coat. For later in the year, there is also an aubergine-coloured fake fur coat and a black coat with a fur collar, both of which capture this autumn's vampish mood. Spike heels, worn with more feminine skirts, offer a halfway house between bohemianism and the Eighties power dressing that is gradually creeping back.

Such footwear is, of course, utterly impractical. Portobello looks set to be full of women trying to wrench their shoes clear of the cracks in the pavement. Best not to attempt the whole Portobello princess lifestyle. Buy the clothes in an hour flat in a nice airy shop, and save the heels for coming out as a vamp at night.

We can now wear all the fabrics that were once deemed in bad taste

## LOWEST DIGITAL LINE RENTAL

**FREE** UP TO 100 MINUTES OF CALLS PER MONTH (MINIMUM 100 MINUTES REQUIRED)

**FREE** PORTABLE HANDS FREE KIT WORTH £35

**FREE** LEATHER CAR CASE & IN CAR ADAPTOR

**FREE** 3 MONTHS INSURANCE WORTH £15

**FREE** NEXT DAY DELIVERY

**100 HOUR BATTERY**

**PER SECOND BILLING**

**Nokia 1611 £4.9**

• Latest Nokia GSM Phone  
• 3.5 hours talk time  
• Identifies incoming calls

OPEN: Mon-Thurs 9am-6pm • Fri-Sat 9am-5pm • Sun 10am-5pm

Have your credit card to hand and Dial-a-phone now on Freephone

**0800 00 00 77**

24 Hours

**DIAL-A-PHONE**

Mothe  
little  
quid ho

Language lesson • Wom

THE

LO

place for men in w



# Mother's little liquid helper

It's not boredom that makes them reach for a nice cold alcopop, says Maureen Freely

The husband leaves in the morning and the wife is glad to hear the door close behind him. She is free, the children go to school, she is alone, she attends to a thousand small tasks, her hands are busy, but her mind is empty, what plans she has for the family, she lives only for them, it relieves her, until when they return, a little present, but how foolish this would seem now. The evening is dull, reading, radio, desultory talks, each remains alone under cover of this intimacy. The wife wonders, with hope or apprehension, whether tonight — at last — something will happen. She goes to sleep disappointed, and it is with pleasure that she will hear him slam the door next morning.

This is how Simone de Beauvoir described the housewife's lot in 1949. It is a triumph of negative advertising: read it and you easily forget that the job came with perks, too. A stay-at-home wife had some status in those days. She did not live in isolation. She had plenty of adult company — half the human race, in fact. She might have resented her exclusion from public life but at least she could turn on that radio and hear pompous politicians ask each other: "How will this important new decision affect the Housewife?" No-one bothers to take the part of the Housewife now. With the possible exception of Richard and Judy, no-one outside the world of market research seems aware they even exist. Little wonder, then, that they've sunk to drinking alcopops.

This news comes to us care of John Phillips, managing director of the Split Drinks Company. Earlier this month he told a government inquiry that its alcopop, Jammin', was most popular with "bored housewives" who like to have a drink during the day, but who had qualms about spending of alcohol. "With Jammin'," he said, "they can enjoy a drink on the quiet without their husbands knowing." Ministers at the inquiry are said to have been baffled at his cavalier comments. One, however, "Mrs. As" as she is called, while Lord Alexander of the Chichester, Turning Point, expressed concern that drink companies might be pushing bored housewives into alcoholism.

It's more likely that the alcopop bars were using bored housewives as a smokescreen. Independent research unveiled at a national seminar on alcopops this week confirmed that they continue to be popular with the under-aged and that they are packaged to appeal not to housewives but to ravers — a wise strategy, in view of other research showing that single women in the 16-24 and 35-44 brackets drink more than married women of any age. This is not to say that drink is never a problem with housewives. Certainly 24-year-old Amanda Ryan-McCurdy wouldn't say it: she has to appear in court this week after police found her driving 13 children in her Ford Escort while more than twice over the drink-drive limit.

The alcohol in her bloodstream, it seems, was from a party the night before. Most of the children belonged to neighbours who for one reason or another had not managed to collect them from a football match. It all sounds very odd and worrying — especially as the children in question were between six months and four years in age. Clearly there is a problem here — but is it fair to call it boredom? It's not a word housewives themselves use when bemoaning their lot. The ones I know complain instead about being run off their feet, stepped on and taken for granted.

When they have very young children to justify their "unemployed" status, they can at least draw from a large pool of sympathetic listeners. But by the time their children reach school age, most of their confidantes will have detached back to work. From then on they will be "just dashing out the door" when their stay-at-home friends ring them in the morning, "unable to speak for long" when they ring them at the office, and too tired to speak at all in the evening. If housewives with school-age children are to have any adult contact at all during normal working hours, they must befriend women with whom they have nothing in common. Nothing, that is, except for the complex web of jumble sales, village fairs, playgroups, school runs, ballet lessons, doctors' visits, and urgent errands that make their lives so fraught. In the old days, things were more

It's how I reward myself when I've done my day's work



Solitary drinking can be dangerous, but housewives are not children, and an alcopop does not equal perdition

relaxed because half the human race did this sort of unpaid work. Now that the domestic sphere has been downsized, the burden every individual housewife has to carry is much, much heavier. They are forever finding themselves in situations where they just can't say no.

The worst part, they say, is that people think they're doing you a favour by keeping you busy. "It will get you out of the house," head teachers say when they lumber you with the promises auction. "It will be a nice change of scene," husbands and in-laws say, when they need a lift to an airport on the other side of the country. Then, when you get them there, they ask: "When are you going back to do some

proper work?" I doubt anyone would have dared say that to one of Simone's housewives.

The worst offenders in this regard, my friends tell me, are housewife-turned-workaholics like me. We understand, you see, but oh so condescendingly. So every time they admit to us some common-or-garden adult discontent — a snippy husband, a wayward teenager — we tell them how much less "dependent" and "enmeshed" they will be if they find some way to "use" their minds.

It's this sort of friendly advice that sends so many housewives scrambling for alibis. They start talking frantically about the courses they might take, the interior

decorating businesses they'll be setting up after they've run nine marathons. Hobbies that used to be pleasures now become badges.

"I don't work, but I sometimes repair harpsichords," they say. Or, "I was reading such a fascinating philosopher yesterday after I did six hours in my vegetable garden." Why isn't it enough to say that they are proud to have created households that are all of a piece, and that plenty of people benefit from their being on call 24 hours a day?

If women's work in the home has no status, and seems to the outside world to have no purpose, it's partly — a practitioner at the Women's Therapy Link tells me

— because it has no name. "It's not called management, and it's not an art or a craft" — and especially in the middle classes, it's often assumed to be expendable. Perhaps this explains why so many housewives I know suffer from depression, and why, as they grow older, they become so worried about "being replaced". All too often, their fears come true.

That's my theory, anyway, about that po-faced Chanel mother a friend spotted knocking back glasses of whisky at the pub next to her children's school. Not to mention the agitated blonde with a Spacewagon full of children who beat me to that phone booth at my health club to spend 40 minutes telling some man no one had made her feel "this way" since she'd married "that bastard".

My health club attracts housewives of all ages. Some of the older ones also heard snatches of the conversation, and in the changing room later they did a lot of communal eyebrow raising. They thought the woman was a disgrace to the calling because they do see a purpose in their lives. As do all their families: they are forever racing off to distant continents to meet their children's childcare emergencies. They do so many favours for everyone else, myself included, that they should register as charities.

August is a particularly difficult month, because of all those family visits. "They won't have a simple meal," I heard one woman complain. "My son says, 'what shall we eat?' I say, 'what about boiled-the-bag fish?' He and his wife say, 'oh no Mum, we must have pesto this and pesto that and walnut oil for the salad.' And off we go to Sainsbury's to buy all those little jars..."

Another woman had just shocked her vegetarian daughter-in-law by serving a jelly ("How was I to know there was bone marrow in gelatine?"). A third confessed she had come for a swim to get away from her retired husband (they all sigh when anyone mentions a retired husband) who had gone haywire with their new Dyson. "It's not just that he was vacuuming all night," she wailed. "It's his only topic of conversation. How many dog hairs it had picked up in the last hour. What I'd missed last time in the far corner. How filthy the house must have been before he came to the rescue. I was tempted to remind him how long I'd been asking for a new vacuum cleaner, but I didn't like to say." They never do, which may explain why some might decide to treat themselves to Prozac, Valium, or a nice, cold alcopop.

It's how I reward myself when everything's organised and I've done my day's work," one housewife friend tells me. Her poison is Hooch, and she always has "one or two" lurking at the back of the refrigerator. "And what's wrong with that?" Granted, it is dangerous to get into the habit of secret, solitary drinking. But housewives are not children, and an alcopop does not equal perdition. It seems unfair to expect them to proclaim the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about their every little drinkie while remaining otherwise discreet and self-effacing. Unfair and unwise. Just imagine how we'd all suffer if they stopped "taking the edge off things" — and felt compelled by their new sharp focus to say what they thought.

Language lesson + Women's business + Adding to the shame + Stars split

## The linguistic sex bullies

THE late Kingsley Amis was always scolding about Welsh people's insistence on having words spelt out in their own language. I remember him, at a Spectator lunch, expatiating wonderfully — with characteristic eloquence — on the idiocy of the signs for "Taxis" underneath, and presumably to clarify, the signs for "Taxi" when, as he pointed out, there was hardly any room for confusion as it was.

He chose to miss the point, to refuse to see the argument as political rather than linguistic, or indeed to acknowledge that the two are inevitably intertwined. He shared something here with the Post-Modernists, to whom he most apocryphally did not belong, in his apparent acceptance of the transparency of language. Words are imbued with a meaning other than the one they obviously signify, they are not just ciphers.

We know what the Welsh mean by spelling taxi taxi. If we are being honest, we also know what the Equal Opportunities Commission is about in trying to get rid of gender distinctions in what is a gender-distinguishing language, but I wish we could hear the elder Amis's opinions on it. Too late for that, of course, and I acknowledge we know, too, what they'd be.

In theory, there is much to

splitter about. The idea of the EOC telling the Welsh to mend their sexist ways and change their non-endings accordingly is, on initial reading, astonishing. This is not because I pooh-pooh the idea of language being sexist: it is sexist. Ours isn't particularly — we have merely the problem of universal and supposedly neutral application of the

Language (Pandora Press, £7.99) forthwith. But the difficulty is, even while acknowledging that language is sexist, there are historical reasons for its being so. Can an edict overturn history? It certainly cannot rewrite it, and shouldn't try.

Religion is a moot point, too: the Pope is being implored to "upgrade" the Vir-

Nigella Lawson



male pronoun to bother our pretty little heads about — but even at age 12 I remember the justified irritation about being told by my French teacher that "the male always takes precedence".

And don't let anyone tell you that such things do — and I advise you to buy a copy of Dale Spender's *Man Made*

gin, Mary, so that instead of the Holy Trinity, Catholics can pray to the Holy Quartet. Somehow, I can't think the Pope will oblige. Again, this is not because the accusation of sexism is unfounded in the Roman Catholic Church, but because it is its very foundation.

But linguistically, the Welsh have more of a prob-

lem than most. It's not just that, like the Germans, they have different words for a man and a woman doing the same thing (*Lehrer* and *athro* being the German and Welsh, respectively, for a male teacher, *Lehrerin* or *athrawes* for a female one), which the modern sensibility cannot tolerate, but that, in some cases, only a male form exists. There are no female forms for doctor or solicitor, for example. And so the EOC has asked Welsh academics to see how newer forms might be evolved.

I believe in the organic development of language; you cannot bully anyone into "correct usage", since correct usage is, by definition, how language is being used. But here some gentle nudging might be in order. I welcome in our own language the use of the singular "they", purely on the ground that it is better than "him or her" — and for all my linguistic tolerance, I shrink from the use of him to include her.

But before anyone gets too worked up about "politically correct usage", they should remember two things: none of this is to be enforced — we are talking, politely, guidelines here; and there is only one test, the everyday use of language itself. Such matters are unarguably democratic: let the people speak.

## A graceless Kelly

IT makes no sense for Kelly Fisher to accuse Dodi Fayed of humiliating her. Until she made her stand, only her friends were privy to her humiliation — now the whole world is. Have some people no shame? And apart from money, what can she hope to gain from all this? If she thinks she will win our sympathy, she is severely misguided. All is not fair in love, and the more she tells us how ill she was used, the less we all think of her.

There is some shame in being dumped, there is almost a smell about it. To draw attention to it is to add to the stench. Mr Fayed's ex-wife says Ms Fisher told her she had dumped him: how much better she would be feeling now if she'd stuck to that story.

Thomas Mann wrote in the book that was my teenage passion, *Tonio Kröger*: "He who loves the most is the inferior and must suffer."

I know this is an adolescent insight, but that's how we all feel. Ms Fisher arouses our contempt not, fairly, because she's milking this situation for all its financial worth, but unfairly, because in protesting her love, she's convincing us of her inferiority.

men are making, you could be forgiven for thinking it is not only women who bleed.

■ I don't know why everyone's getting in such a flap about the Germans being brought in to help in building the Greenwich Dome. If we used good old British builders — and I speak from experience — I shouldn't think we'd get it finished in time for the next millennium.

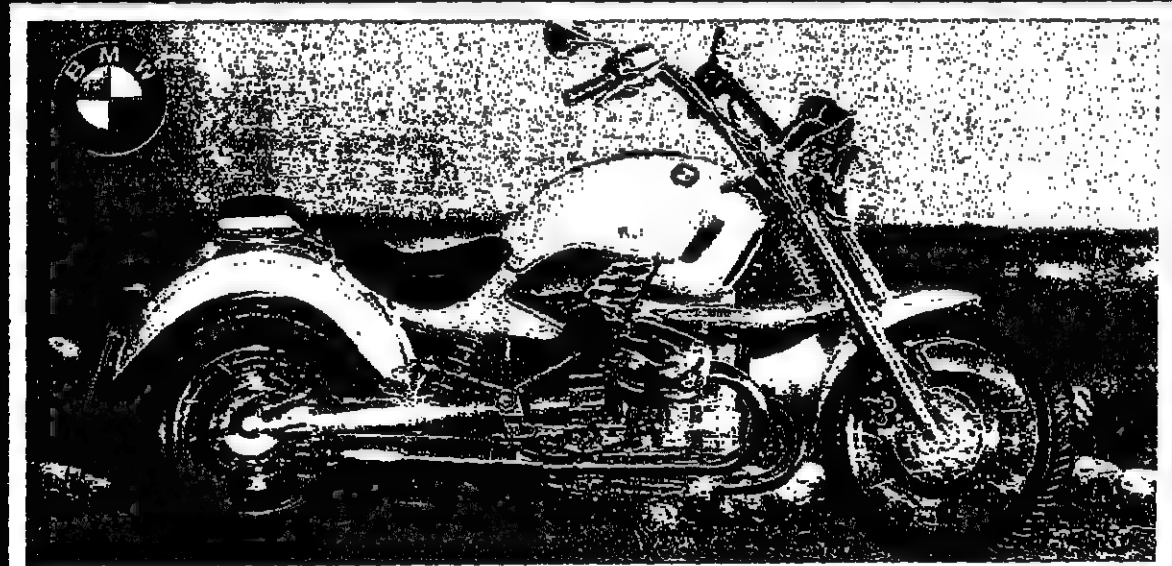
## Another fateful seven

SHOWBIZ gossip is not my field, nor it is even my interest. Nevertheless — and for what it's worth — it has come to me why Brad Pitt and Gwyneth Paltrow have ended their engagement. The film *Seven Years in Tibet*, starring Pitt, has been recalled by the Hollywood studio that made it after *Stern* magazine claimed the central character (Pitt) had been a Nazi stormtrooper. Ms Paltrow, for all her pale Quaker looks, is Jewish; the wedding was to take place in a synagogue. The facts speak for themselves, no?

Everyone now declares the end of politics, but surely we are witnessing the reverse: that is to say, the politicisation of everything. This decision is about commerce and selling and it does, I'm afraid, make sense. Men are not going to be using or buying this product, and one can forgive the company that makes it for believing that their approach might thus be irrelevant. But for all the fuss that the

► REWARDING TIMES ◀

## WIN A BMW CRUISER WORTH OVER £10,000



This week, *The Times*, in association with BMW Motorcycles, gives you the chance to win the new R1200 C, the first Cruiser motorcycle ever produced by BMW, worth more than £10,000. Our winner will also receive free BMW Insurance up to the value of £750.

This stylish bike provides a novel mixture of leading edge technology with distinctive Cruiser design. It has high raked handle bars and low seat, a flat twin Boxer engine for extra torque plus an innovative Telelever front suspension system and Monolever rear suspension. It's a bike with style and attitude ideal for the open road. And that is not all.

Cruiser World also has a new range of fashionable clothing and accessories to go with the bike.

### THE TIMES/BMW CRUISER COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Send this form with four differently numbered tokens to arrive by September 12, 1997, to: The Times/BMW Cruiser Competition, Freeport BMW, PO Box 161, Croydon CR9 1QS.

Full name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime tel \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you have a motorcycle licence? Yes ☐ No ☐  
Current motorcycle owned? \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration letter / year? \_\_\_\_\_  
When are you thinking of changing your motorcycle? \_\_\_\_\_

IT WOULD HELP US IF YOU ANSWERED THESE QUESTIONS:  
Which of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)  
☐ 15-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64  
Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) each week?  
Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less)?  
Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?  
If you would prefer not to receive information from BMW, please tick ☐  
If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by The Times, please tick ☐

THE TIMES



# Mandarin of the mandarins

Sue Cameron on the task ahead for the new Cabinet Secretary

Of all the decisions which Tony Blair took in his first 100 days, few will have more significance for at least the next 1,000 than his selection of Sir Richard Wilson to take over as Britain's most powerful civil servant.

Sir Richard will inherit a Whitehall torn between triumphalism and deep unease. Elation springs from the hope that Tony Blair's presidential style could mark the start of a golden age for the Civil Service.

Central control and closed-door committees, plus a lack of dogmatism on policy issues, offers senior officials the chance to enjoy greater influence than they have had for decades. Yet new Labour's approach to politics could lead as easily to traditional civil servants being marginalised, their role usurped by outsiders more congenial to ministers.

Sir Richard, who will succeed Sir Robin Butler in the twin posts of Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service, stands to become the guide and confidant of a young Prime Minister lacking in any ideological underpinning. If he can deliver on the policy front, Whitehall's prestige and importance will be greatly enhanced. More problematical for the Civil Service is Mr Blair's style of government — the shifting of the political debate away from the public arena to the conference rooms of Whitehall.

Madam Speaker has already started voicing publicly her concern at the way the Government has been pre-empting major announcements to the media before telling the Commons — so maximising the influence of spin-doctors and minimising that of MPs. Meanwhile, ministers have been ordered formally to clear every speech and every media lunch with No 10.

And the invitation to the Liberal Democrats to sit on a Cabinet committee discussing constitutional issues will effectively gag them. They will be required to observe confidentiality on all business discussed in the committee. Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown will be unable even to tell his backbenchers when he agrees or — more important — disagrees with Mr Blair.

At first sight all this may seem to be tailor-made for Whitehall. If the politicians encounter problems in hammering out consensus deals behind closed doors, help will be at hand from Sir Richard with the massed ranks of the senior Civil Service shimmering at his back.

"The civil servants will love it," says Professor Peter Hennessy, doyen of Whitehall watchers. "For years most of them have been going to Brussels regularly and they've honed their brokering skills over there. Now they'll be able to use them here."

There is a potential downside in all this for Whitehall.

The Scott report revealed the ineptitude and self-interest of Whitehall's culture of confidentiality. In the eyes of the public, the Civil Service is still on probation. A repeat performance will not be tolerated.

Yet in the run-up to the next election, Mr Ashdown may have every incentive to walk out of the committee amid a hail of acrimonious revelation about the deals done. After all, there is little point in voting for the Liberal Democrats if they have become a mere cadet branch of the Labour Party.

Mr Blair's consensus politics will pose a further dilemma for Whitehall. As one former Permanent Secretary remarked: "Show me a piece of legislation based on consensus and I reach for my gun."

Not all the Commons criticism of government policy is of the synthetic, stage-act kind that has so sickened the public. Without the bombardment of parliamentary scrutiny, there is a good chance that consensus legislation will be bad legislation leading to the kind of major policy failures that undermine the standing of politicians in the eyes of the public and of civil servants in the eyes of their ministers.

There have been enough examples in the past from the Child Support Agency to the poll tax. Mr Blair's manner of government poses another, even more serious risk, for Whitehall. Traditional, impartial, civil servants could find themselves being re-

placed by outsiders committed to Labour. There is concern that this is happening already.

Jill Rutter, the Treasury's director of information, has just resigned after three months of being systematically bypassed by the Chancellor and his Labour press secretary, Charlie Whelan. She was left sitting isolated in the august Treasury building, while Mr Whelan sat in the Red Lion over the road spinning the latest line to journalists.

Two other directors of information have also been sent on gardening leave, a Civil Service euphemism for suspension. Their departure may be coincidence or the result of clumsy handling. Or it may be the start of a purge that goes far beyond press officers. What is certain is that the fate of the Whitehall Three will send a frisson around the Civil Service.

Sir Richard will play a crucial role in deciding the fate of his own Whitehall troops and of the Blair Government itself. Before he takes over in the new year, he will have the chance to influence a number of key Whitehall appointments.

Some half a dozen Permanent Secretary posts — the top Civil Service jobs in each department — are becoming vacant. This will give Sir Richard the chance to strengthen links to new Labour ministers and to put his own stamp on Whitehall. We might then start to see who is going to mould whom.

**Sir Richard stands to become Blair's confidant**



## Shades of the Old Vic

Theatres are not just bricks and mortar, they are home to the spirits of the past

Every time a theatre closes, a little something in us dies. Other arts are closet passions. In a theatre the community cries and laughs collectively. It argues, hopes and is afraid. Shut a concert hall and you amputate a cultural limb. Close a theatre and you lobotomise the soul.

Or so theatre people would have us believe. Once again in its 180-year history, London's most famous theatre, the Old Vic, is "under threat". Its benefactors of the past 15 years, the Mervishes of Toronto, are putting the place up for sale in December. The new company formed by Sir Peter Hall will have strutted just one brief season on its stage. Pending a buyer — and theatre millionaires this week denied all interest — the old lady of Waterloo will again wear widow's weeds.

Does it matter? The Vic was always a commercial monster. It was built after the opening of Waterloo Bridge in 1818 to bring glamour to the South Bank marshes. Streets such as The Cut and Lower Marsh reflected its grim environs. The first owner was the stagecoach son of a rich merchant, Joseph Glossop. He had to supply flares and foot patrols to defend visitors from the size of dogs and from bands of pickpockets and garroters. When Hazlitt came to a performance, he declared the audience mostly "prostitutes and mountebanks".

The Vic's most famous era was in the first half of this century under Lilian Baylis. She had a talent for staging popular classics while also balancing the books. "Lord God send me a good actor, but send him cheap," was her motto. She never watched the plays, but by launching the careers of the greatest names in 20th-century drama, Baylis invested the Old Vic with an aura of invincibility that has lasted ever since. Who could bring down a curtain on a stage that had echoed to Laughton, Neville, Burton, Richardson, Olivier, Redgrave, Evans, Gielgud?

Acting is the only profession that requires its practitioners to believe in ghosts. I was a member of the Old Vic in the pre-Mervish years and lost count of the producers who would plead for an overspend by citing the shades of the past. All seemed to believe, with Baylis, that an Old Vic director was directly inspired by Almighty God. Although God was mysteriously bereft of an Arts Council grant. His begging bowl was supposedly, unrefusable. Baylis

eventually ruined the Old Vic when divine revelation told her that "My People must have the best and God tells me that the best in theatre is grand opera."

After the war, Olivier's National Theatre brought the Vic subsidised salvation, until he left for his new Thames-side palace in 1976. From then until the arrival of the Mervishes, the Vic stumbled from crisis to crisis.

When other West End theatres were under threat of mass closure in the Sixties, the response was extraordinary — and not just from theatre

acolytes. Theatres are shrines, holy ground encumbered with saints and martyrs. This antiquarianism seems at odds with the vitality of "live" theatre. The glory of drama is that it can be staged anywhere. This week in Edinburgh companies are performing in church halls, pubs, garages, private flats, even the street. Some audiences may need Shakespeare's Wooden O to "hold the very casques that did affright the air at Agincourt". The plays themselves need no such prop. Shakespeare's plays-within-plays were content with the Elsinore banquet hall, the Forest of Arden or Quince's "this green plot our stage, this hawthorn brake our tiring house". They needed no National Lottery grant.

Most actors and directors curse the buildings in which they are expected to perform, new as well as old. Backstage conditions at the modern Barbican and National Theatres are hideous. Seating at most fringe theatres is backbreaking. Old auditoriums contrive to suppress all but shouted lines, while amplifying the slightest audience cough.

Visiting a West End theatre can be a miserable experience, forcing writing and acting to work ever harder. Perhaps the quality of the London stage is due to this need to triumph over physical adversity.

Yet I admit the central argument. Buildings do relate to the activities to which they give shelter. Parliamentary argument is influenced by the shape of the debating chamber. Religious ritual interacts with church architecture. A palace occupied by a monarch has an aura that is absent from a museum. I cannot visit the Albert Hall, or Canterbury Cathedral, or the House of Commons, or even the Savoy Hotel, and treat these buildings as mere inhabited archaeology. We fight to save old buildings not just because we like looking at them. We fight because they do hold ancestral spirits. Yesterday's cast adds lustre to today's.

Of no building is this more true than a theatre. Show a film and the

audience retreats. Begin the performance of a play and the audience advances. It enters into conversation with the stage. If architecture impedes this conversation, the play does not work. The past is embedded in that architecture, is part of its electric current. The new Savoy Theatre, rebuilt after gutting by fire, still sings of D'Oyly Carte. Nobody can visit the Old Vic and forget the actors that have peopled its stage.

The London theatre does more than honour these ancestors. Like the pre-Reformation Church, it offers salvation and indulgence to its present benefactors. The reason why so few theatres close is that rich people feel somehow uplifted by association with the stage. The Old Vic was founded by a stagestruck impresario. Stagestruck ministers and officials have sustained it since, as have the stagestruck Mervishes. A magic ingredient keeps theatres going long after their founding fathers have moved on. By hook, by crook, by subsidy, even by social security, they survive. As the Old Vic closes, the impresario, Sally Green, plans to rebuild Collins Music Hall on Islington Green. London theatres grow in number, there are now more than 100. The Mervishes were just the latest, and most generous, of angels. They reportedly buried almost £30 million at the Vic.

Simon Jenkins

they are expected to perform, new as well as old. Backstage conditions at the modern Barbican and National Theatres are hideous. Seating at most fringe theatres is backbreaking. Old auditoriums contrive to suppress all but shouted lines, while amplifying the slightest audience cough.

Visiting a West End theatre can be a miserable experience, forcing writing and acting to work ever harder. Perhaps the quality of the London stage is due to this need to triumph over physical adversity.

Yet I admit the central argument. Buildings do relate to the activities to which they give shelter. Parliamentary argument is influenced by the shape of the debating chamber. Religious ritual interacts with church architecture. A palace occupied by a monarch has an aura that is absent from a museum. I cannot visit the Albert Hall, or Canterbury Cathedral, or the House of Commons, or even the Savoy Hotel, and treat these buildings as mere inhabited archaeology. We fight to save old buildings not just because we like looking at them. We fight because they do hold ancestral spirits. Yesterday's cast adds lustre to today's.

Of no building is this more true than a theatre. Show a film and the

audience retreats. Begin the performance of a play and the audience advances. It enters into conversation with the stage. If architecture impedes this conversation, the play does not work. The past is embedded in that architecture, is part of its electric current. The new Savoy Theatre, rebuilt after gutting by fire, still sings of D'Oyly Carte. Nobody can visit the Old Vic and forget the actors that have peopled its stage.

The London theatre does more than honour these ancestors. Like the pre-Reformation Church, it offers salvation and indulgence to its present benefactors. The reason why so few theatres close is that rich people feel somehow uplifted by association with the stage. The Old Vic was founded by a stagestruck impresario. Stagestruck ministers and officials have sustained it since, as have the stagestruck Mervishes. A magic ingredient keeps theatres going long after their founding fathers have moved on. By hook, by crook, by subsidy, even by social security, they survive. As the Old Vic closes, the impresario, Sally Green, plans to rebuild Collins Music Hall on Islington Green. London theatres grow in number, there are now more than 100. The Mervishes were just the latest, and most generous, of angels. They reportedly buried almost £30 million at the Vic.

audience retreats. Begin the performance of a play and the audience advances. It enters into conversation with the stage. If architecture impedes this conversation, the play does not work. The past is embedded in that architecture, is part of its electric current. The new Savoy Theatre, rebuilt after gutting by fire, still sings of D'Oyly Carte. Nobody can visit the Old Vic and forget the actors that have peopled its stage.

The London theatre does more than honour these ancestors. Like the pre-Reformation Church, it offers salvation and indulgence to its present benefactors. The reason why so few theatres close is that rich people feel somehow uplifted by association with the stage. The Old Vic was founded by a stagestruck impresario. Stagestruck ministers and officials have sustained it since, as have the stagestruck Mervishes. A magic ingredient keeps theatres going long after their founding fathers have moved on. By hook, by crook, by subsidy, even by social security, they survive. As the Old Vic closes, the impresario, Sally Green, plans to rebuild Collins Music Hall on Islington Green. London theatres grow in number, there are now more than 100. The Mervishes were just the latest, and most generous, of angels. They reportedly buried almost £30 million at the Vic.

Simon Jenkins

they are expected to perform, new as well as old. Backstage conditions at the modern Barbican and National Theatres are hideous. Seating at most fringe theatres is backbreaking. Old auditoriums contrive to suppress all but shouted lines, while amplifying the slightest audience cough.

Visiting a West End theatre can be a miserable experience, forcing writing and acting to work ever harder. Perhaps the quality of the London stage is due to this need to triumph over physical adversity.

Yet I admit the central argument. Buildings do relate to the activities to which they give shelter. Parliamentary argument is influenced by the shape of the debating chamber. Religious ritual interacts with church architecture. A palace occupied by a monarch has an aura that is absent from a museum. I cannot visit the Albert Hall, or Canterbury Cathedral, or the House of Commons, or even the Savoy Hotel, and treat these buildings as mere inhabited archaeology. We fight to save old buildings not just because we like looking at them. We fight because they do hold ancestral spirits. Yesterday's cast adds lustre to today's.

Of no building is this more true than a theatre. Show a film and the

audience retreats. Begin the performance of a play and the audience advances. It enters into conversation with the stage. If architecture impedes this conversation, the play does not work. The past is embedded in that architecture, is part of its electric current. The new Savoy Theatre, rebuilt after gutting by fire, still sings of D'Oyly Carte. Nobody can visit the Old Vic and forget the actors that have peopled its stage.

The London theatre does more than honour these ancestors. Like the pre-Reformation Church, it offers salvation and indulgence to its present benefactors. The reason why so few theatres close is that rich people feel somehow uplifted by association with the stage. The Old Vic was founded by a stagestruck impresario. Stagestruck ministers and officials have sustained it since, as have the stagestruck Mervishes. A magic ingredient keeps theatres going long after their founding fathers have moved on. By hook, by crook, by subsidy, even by social security, they survive. As the Old Vic closes, the impresario, Sally Green, plans to rebuild Collins Music Hall on Islington Green. London theatres grow in number, there are now more than 100. The Mervishes were just the latest, and most generous, of angels. They reportedly buried almost £30 million at the Vic.

## Paisley is Scotland's tragedy

Magnus Linklater says scandal mars devolution debate

It should by rights have been a triumphant demonstration of cross-party unity: three political leaders brought together for the first time by a common policy on the future government of Scotland. In Edinburgh yesterday the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, was flanked not only by the Liberal Democrat Menzies Campbell, but by the leader of the Scottish Nationalists, Alex Salmond — a man once reviled by Labour as the dangerous outlaw of Scottish politics.

But things did not go according to plan. Instead of keen debate on the prospects for next month's referendum, the questions from the floor nagged away persistently at events in Paisley. The imminent suspension of a Labour MP accused of smearing his now dead colleague, Gordon McMaster, has brought this seamy and unpleasant affair out of Labour's backyard and damped it at the front pavement at exactly the wrong moment.

It has, of course, nothing to do with the referendum itself, as Mr Dewar was at pains to point out. But at the very least it is a dangerous distraction. If the polls are anything to go by, the vote is by no means yet sewn up, and opponents of devolution have seized on the allegations to undermine the Government's campaign for a double "yes" vote — yes to a Scottish parliament, yes to taxation powers.

The line being pushed yesterday by the Think Twice campaign, which is pressing for a double "no", could hardly have been cruder: "The Scottish people know that the boys and the girls don't like the look of the boys on offer," said the press release. More insidiously, the question being asked at the weekend was whether Labour's Scottish headquarters had deliberately suppressed the results of a previous inquiry into alleged corruption in Paisley. There have been stories of letters, possibly forged, bearing the signatures of Labour's former Chief Whip and his deputy, which effectively killed off a damning report into the activities of the MP under suspicion, Tommy Graham.

None of this in fact amounts to a row of beads as far as the referendum is concerned. The whole point of the proportional representation system which will elect a future Scottish parliament is to put ahead to the one-party domination that led to the Paisley mess in the first place. Labour's agreement to support the Liberal Democrats' on PR was a handsome concession by a party which might otherwise have expected to control the government of Scotland in the same way that it has traditionally held power throughout the Central Belt. The additional member system means that it will have to seek support from at least one other party to command a majority. At the same time, new Labour is determined to see an end to the old Labour style of politics in the West of Scotland, which Tommy Graham represents.

So Paisley is an aberration, a throwback to a dinosaur brand of politics soon to be extinct. But some of the mud is sticking. In part because the rumours are so hard to pin down. What, after all, is the charge? Corruption, vote-rigging, malicious rumour, or just the continuing existence of a petty fiefdom riven by hatred and suspicion? I know of at least four local inquiries into false membership lists in and around Paisley that came to nothing.

The Scottish Office has looked into allegations that public money was siphoned off by drug dealers. The Labour Party has tried to pin down charges of corruption. Now the present Chief Whip has conducted his own inquiry into the McMaster smear. All have found that the evidence is mostly word-of-mouth, the accusations uncorroborated, the witnesses often dumb. And the real enmity between the various factions makes it hard to decide when old scores are being paid off or when genuine information is being produced.

Clearly it is something that Labour has to resolve, and quickly. If the referendum is to have anything like a clear run, but given the inchoate nature of the affair and the long list of Mr Graham's friends ready and willing to defend their patron, a speedy resolution seems hard to achieve. That, in the end, is a disservice for "yes" and "no" voters alike who may be deprived of the chance to engage in the real arguments about this referendum. It would be tragic if this, the culmination of a century-long debate about the future of the Union and Scotland's place in it, was polluted by a seamy dispute about local party politics.

Help, however, may be at hand — and from an unexpected quarter. The best contribution yesterday came from Mr Salmond, whose party is pledged to eventual independence but who has thrown his weight behind the "yes" campaign. He is the most effective public debater in Scotland, and his party can deliver a formidable vote-getting machine when it wants to. It would be ironic if Labour's old foe became its most effective ally in the battle for a Scottish parliament.

Alan Coren is away.

## Mad idea

JUST when it seemed that there were no more Tory clothes left for new Labour to steal, there comes bewildering news from right-wing think-tank the Adam Smith Institute. Madmen Pirie, the institute's president, is volunteering to be Tony Blair's new chief policy wonk.

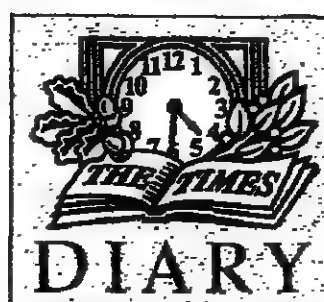
Pirie, who disclosed his love affair with Labour in *The Times*, now says he is throwing his hat

into the ring for the job of head of the Downing Street policy unit. The post has remained unfilled since Labour came to power and the hunt for a suitable recruit has turned into a convoluted saga with both Bob Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, and Rachel Lomax, Permanent Secretary at the Welsh Office, linked to the job but not appointed.

Pirie, who is a youthful 56 with a penchant for rollerblading and bow-ties, fancies following in the footsteps of Sarah, now Baroness, Hogg and the just ennobled Norman Blackwell, who served under John Major.

"I'm offering my services because I believe that the key to the job is creativity and the ability to think of innovative ways to achieve Labour's aims," says Pirie. "I'm not a Tory, I'm not a member of any political party." A Downing Street spokesman gives no inkling as to how Pirie's offer has gone down in the Blair camp. "It is not for us to comment on individual candidates."

News of Labour's victory appears to have been slow reaching some corners of the Tory party. An



invitation to a reception at the autumn party conference, hosted by the Conservative Board of Finance, boasts that guests will have the chance to meet Cabinet ministers.

### Folly paid

THE Queen's racing manager, the Earl of Carnarvon, is introducing paying guests to his Hampshire estate, Highclere. They will be housed in an 18th-century folly, which is being converted into a three-bedroom holiday home by the Landmark Trust at the cost of half a million pounds. The Trust will be allowed to lease the building. "The estate does not have the money to repair these buildings," says the estate architect, Michael Carden. "The Earl won't get anything out of it except solving his fol-

ly repair problem." The paying guests will enjoy a lakeside location and the chance to train their binoculars on the Queen, who regularly stays at Highclere while visiting Newbury races.

### Snapped up

WHATEVER is on offer in Edinburgh, surely the strangest art exhibition of the moment is at the Blackfriars Arts Centre, in Boston, Lincolnshire. The subject is John Redwood. Shadow President of the Board of Trade. Back in February



Prints charming: Redwood

the Boston Monochrome Society took it upon themselves to photograph the Tory MP and reputed Vulcan as he toured Marshall's vegetable processing plant at Newark. Now dozens of prints feature him in various poses, with all manner of vegetables and sporting a white protective coat bearing the word "Visitor". "It's flattering," says Redwood of the show, before hastily making a Euro-point: "The Brussels came from Lincolnshire."

### Mummy's boy

IN time-honoured tradition, Baroness Thatcher has flown to the side of her son Mark after his latest scrape. Detectives raided Thatcher Jr's Cape Town home earlier this month amid allegations that he illegally hired armed policemen as bodyguards. The prodigal son has spent a week holed up in the spanking new Labourdonnais Hotel in Port Louis, capital of Mauritius, but is understood to be back in South Africa with his mother before she, too, nips to Mauritius to give a lecture on the virtues of a deregulated economy. "Mark is a regular visitor to our shores," says the High Commission, cheerfully. But unions are planning to demonstrate when La Thatcher arrives, which is unlikely to worry her.

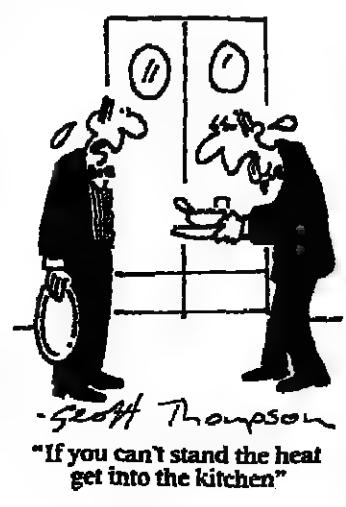


Model role: Winona Ryder

### Tall order

MODELS hoping to relaunch themselves as actresses should send their CVs to Woody Allen, who is about to start filming a satire about the fashion industry. While Kenneth Branagh and Winona Ryder have already been guaranteed parts, Allen's casting tour of Europe's catwalks in search of possible candidates yielded only one girl to his liking.

P.H.S



Scott Thompson





## THE PAISLEY CARNIVAL

Labour in Scotland needs independent investigation

In three weeks Scotland will have the chance to make the most radical change to the constitution of the United Kingdom for more than 20 years. The creation of a tax-raising Scottish parliament will fundamentally alter the balance of the British State. What Scotland, and its partners in the United Kingdom, need before such a departure is a debate. Instead, however, of being participants in a democratic festival Scotland's voters have become witnesses to a carnival of scandal.

Just as the sleaze allegations surrounding Neil Hamilton overshadowed the discussion of policy issues at the start of the general election, so the state of the Labour Party in the West of Scotland is attracting far more interest than the details of devolution. It is not ideal that a constitutional innovation so significant as Home Rule should be put to the people after a referendum campaign conducted in a few weeks. But when those weeks are dominated by speculation about the future of Renfrewshire MPs rather than delicate questions of tax and trust, it is unlikely that the devolution proposals will enjoy the scrutiny they need.

The Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, has already expressed his irritation that the merits of the devolution argument have been overshadowed by scandal. His irritation is justified, but the fault lies with members of his own party. It is all too understandable that the suicide of the Paisley South MP, Gordon McMaster, should have caused public attention to fall on the maverick in which power has been fought over and abused by Labour politicians in Scotland's wild west.

After the allegations of corruption among Glasgow councillors and the suspension of the Govan MP, Mohammed Sarwar, the Renfrew revelations, like the Tory sleaze scandals, have been seen as symptoms of a party too long in power. Voters have begun to ask if a Labour-dominated Scottish parliament would simply provide more tax-funded jobs for the party's good old boys.

The voters' concern will not be diminished by Labour's treatment of these matters in the

past. Labour politicians knew two years ago that, even by the robust standards of Scottish politics, strong-arm tactics were being deployed by Labour figures in Renfrewshire. The Whips' Office was informed. Questions were asked. And what action was taken? More recently both Mr McMaster and the member for Paisley North, Irene Adams, made repeated attempts to alert the authorities to what they believed was local corruption. Parliament was informed. Questions were asked. And what action was taken?

With Mr McMaster's death, and the leaking of his suicide note, action became inevitable. Labour's leadership dispatched the Party's Chief Whip, Nick Brown, to conduct an investigation. There is no reason to believe that Mr Brown will be anything other than as thorough, and tough, as possible. But will his actions be enough to restore public faith? Is it right that a matter in which the behaviour of Labour whips is an issue should be investigated by a Labour whip? And will voters be satisfied that an affair which arises from Labour's long grip on power and could involve the misuse of public money is being investigated by a Labour politician, however honourable?

Would the voters of Taiton have been better served if a Tory whip had taken Sir Gordon Downey's place? Why should the voters of Renfrew be denied an independent inquiry? It is in everyone's interest that this matter is dealt with authoritatively. Suspending should not become scapegoating, and those accused in their absence, such as the Renfrew West MP, Tommy Graham, should have the opportunity to make their case openly. Conservatives may be tempted to gloat but they, and others sincerely sceptical about devolution, should realise that their principled objections will no more engage the voters' attention at the moment than a sermon would a football crowd. For Labour, an invitation to outside figures to investigate the Renfrew affair would show a commitment to good government which would allow the party to make the case for a Scottish parliament with greater confidence.

## OUT OF ITS DEPTH

On Greenpeace, BP has right, the law and science on its side

Greenpeace UK's latest North Sea stunt, the unlawful occupation of British Petroleum's Stena Dee oil rig, has ended in court—but in less serious trouble than its actions merited. BP has offered to suspend its £1.4 million lawsuit to recover losses estimated at £250,000 for each day of the occupation, including £60,000 a day for hire of the rig. BP recognises Greenpeace's right to campaign. It asks only that Greenpeace cease its unlawful sabotage of its operations.

Greenpeace, which complained that BP's suit could have put it out of business, has greeted this offer with a gracelessness that may betray its ambition to pose as martyr to "big oil". It continues to claim, unfoundedly, that BP is using its muscle "to stifle free and open discussion about environmental dangers that will affect us all". On the contrary, the company has behaved with immense restraint. It also, in this particular dispute, has the more solid environmental case.

What Greenpeace is agitating against is the development of the new oilfields of the "Atlantic Margin", west of Shetland, of which the BP Forties field is the first to be exploited commercially. Greenpeace argues not only that this will damage the immediate environment, but that since unsustainable global warming would result from using the world's existing hydrocarbon reserves, it is folly to open up new fields. Oil companies, it says, should instead be investing in renewable sources of energy, such as solar and wind power. It wants Britain to set a unilateral example, by phasing out the use of fossil fuels within 40 years.

The Government rejects the narrower argument that local environmental factors have not been taken sufficiently into

account. On the wider argument, Greenpeace has half a point—as both Shell and BP, which plans to increase production of solar energy tenfold in the next decade, readily concede. But only half a point. Renewable energy technology may help to reduce fossil fuel consumption. For purposes such as electricity generation, BP believes that solar power could, in some climates, be economically viable within ten years. But renewable energy is decades away from substituting for oil and natural gas. Meanwhile, the priority should be to phase out coal, a far more potent greenhouse gas, and the most cost-effective way to do this is to replace it with oil and natural gas—as China, laudably, is making efforts to do.

If such realistic calculations offend Greenpeace's ideas of the politically correct, it would do most practical good by campaigning for double-glazing and other forms of energy-saving. In BP, which takes global warming seriously and includes in its corporate strategy conservation, transfers of energy-efficient technology to developing countries and research into climate change, it would find a willing partner. But such low-key work is not Greenpeace's trademark.

If Greenpeace is forced by the troubles it has brought on itself to retrench, that would create space for a more mature environmental debate in this country. In that debate, Greenpeace's antics are not only an irrelevance; they can even, as happened in the case of Brent Spar a year ago, cost companies and taxpayers millions, all to pay for a less desirable environmental outcome. Its talent for catchy slogans—in this case, the simplistic "no to new oil"—is no substitute for sound environmental science.

## THE QUEEN AND DYER

A royal visit to Amritsar would be appropriate and helpful

The Queen's forthcoming state visit to India should, by rights, be a joyous one. Her love for India is abundant, as is the obvious respect in which she is held by Indians of all classes. A growing row, however, focused on her proposed visit to Amritsar, the holy city of the Sikhs, threatens to curdle the spirit.

Indar Kumar Gujral, India's Prime Minister, is reported to have advised the Queen to drop Amritsar from her itinerary. It is said that her presence in the city of the "Jallianwala Bagh massacre" would upset those Sikhs who are themselves of Sikh origin. Many of them have come out in favour of a royal visit to Amritsar, as have senior Sikh leaders in Punjab itself.

Yesterday Gurcharan Singh Tohra, a senior Sikh religious leader, pointed out that members of the British Royal Family, as well as British Cabinet ministers, have visited Amritsar in the past. Mr Tohra, who commands a considerable following, spoke darkly of "people with vested interests deliberately trying to put the Queen in an embarrassing position". Whatever are the "vested interests" in which he refers, he is certainly correct when he speaks of the pointless awkwardness which has now been thrust upon the visit.

None of this need have happened, and there is still time for matters to be resolved. Naturally, the Queen will not visit Amritsar if the Indian Prime Minister does not want her to. By the same token, however, Mr Gujral must understand that her visit is intended as a way to heal wounds and cement important ties. It is not intended as a slap from Dyer, delivered viciously by the royal hand, 78 years after Jallianwala Bagh.

reflection and prayer. Amritsar is revered by Sikhs as their own "Vatican", and a visit by the Queen would also have been an elegant way to take account of the sentiments of those Britons who are themselves of Sikh origin. Many of them have come out in favour of a royal visit to Amritsar, as have senior Sikh leaders in Punjab itself.

Yesterday Gurcharan Singh Tohra, a senior Sikh religious leader, pointed out that members of the British Royal Family, as well as British Cabinet ministers, have visited Amritsar in the past. Mr Tohra, who commands a considerable following, spoke darkly of "people with vested interests deliberately trying to put the Queen in an embarrassing position". Whatever are the "vested interests" in which he refers, he is certainly correct when he speaks of the pointless awkwardness which has now been thrust upon the visit.

None of this need have happened, and there is still time for matters to be resolved. Naturally, the Queen will not visit Amritsar if the Indian Prime Minister does not want her to. By the same token, however, Mr Gujral must understand that her visit is intended as a way to heal wounds and cement important ties. It is not intended as a slap from Dyer, delivered viciously by the royal hand, 78 years after Jallianwala Bagh.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Changed nature of teen pregnancies

From Mrs Victoria Gillick

Sir, Teenage pregnancies are not a "serious problem" as far as numbers go (letter, August 14). Throughout this century the pregnancy rate among 15 to 19-year-olds has never exceeded 8 per cent, and even today 95 per cent of teenagers do not get pregnant. Among schoolgirls the rate has never (except in 1990) even reached 1 per cent.

Within these comforting statistics, however, there exists a very real problem which has worsened progressively during the past 25 years: unmarried, state-dependent, teenage motherhood. In 1971, when the teenage birth rate was 5 per cent, and the teenage marriage rate was 10 per cent, three quarters of all teenage mothers were young married women aged 17 to 19. But by the mid-1970s the scene had begun to change: legislation allowing easier access to divorce, contraception and abortion; devaluing of Christian moral values; marriage, and the "family unit" in the popular media; a downturn in the economy and other social changes combined to make marriage and birthrates tumble, while divorce and abortion rates soared.

A generation later we are faced with the consequences of this liberal anarchy. And not surprisingly, it is those at the bottom of the social heap who have come off worst.

Today, the teenage marriage rate is only 1 per cent, and although the teenage birth rate has almost halved, 92 per cent of teenage pregnancies now occur outside marriage, a third ending in abortion.

Ten years of "safe sex" education, and a doubling of the use of contraceptives by adolescents in the last five years alone, has only succeeded in sexualising younger and younger children without achieving any significant change in the under-16 pregnancy and abortion rates.

We certainly do need a radical rethink on the issue. More of the same can only make things worse.

Yours faithfully,  
VICTORIA GILICK  
(Director),  
2 Old Market,  
Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.  
August 14.

### Hindley's remorse

From the Earl of Longford

Sir, As a faithful reader of *The Times* for some 80 years I have never been so dismayed as I am today by the heading of your article "Why the RA should hang Myra". Even if Myra were today the evil person still malignantly pursued by the tabloids you would still be forgetting your duty to her as a fellow human being.

I have known Myra Hindley for 29 years. I know her today to be a good religious woman, as do the Catholic priests who have attended her in recent years and the Reverend Peter Timms, former prison governor and now a Methodist minister.

The Parole Board has recommended her for transfer to an open prison, generally regarded as a step towards freedom.

No one could be more haunted than Myra is by the horrific crimes in which more than 30 years ago she participated as an infatuated young accomplice. No one could be more distressed by the lifelong tragedies she has helped to inflict on the victims and their relatives.

But she has struggled throughout the long years to make amends, though that can never be fully possible in this life.

Yours,  
FRANK LONGFORD,  
House of Lords.  
August 18.

### A-level lit crit

From Mr Adrian Room

Sir, In his article on the marking of A-level essays (The pupils are up to scratch), August 15, Chris Ramsey singles out the following concluding sentence as a model of clarity: "Candidide is rooted in its time, but raises questions which are still central to us: it is a text about what it is to be a human being, and for this, if for no other reason, it has survived."

Model of clarity maybe, but what does it say? It is a bland statement that could apply to any classic. Substitute *Anna Karenina*, *Hamlet*, *Silas Marner* or *Tristram Shandy* for *Candidide* and it says just as much, or as little.

Could it have been a catch-all closure recommended by the candidate's teacher in order to leave a pleasant taste in the examiner's mouth?

Yours faithfully,  
ADRIAN ROOM,  
12 High Street,  
St Martin's, Stamford, Lincolnshire.  
August 15.

From Dr Margaret Davies

Sir, Mr Chris Ramsey may not approve, but I must say I think that "Emma Bovary is a bit of a loser" is one of the best examples of succinct language I have ever read.

Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET DAVIES,  
Silver How,  
Llanhennoch, Caerleon, Gwent.  
August 15.

### Academy must embrace all sports

From Dr Paul D. Jackson

Sir, The main benefits from a single national sports academy (report and leading article, August 15) are the common goal of excellence, and the sharing of knowledge and ideas from a wide range of sports.

The full potential for wider application of developments in fitness training, skill acquisition, sports psychology, the application of sports science, and sports medicine is lost if not all of our sports are included. The sports that remain within the proposed academy will lose from this as much as those excluded.

The Government must review the original objectives for a national sports academy drawn up by the last Government after extensive consultation with those involved in the training and management of elite athletes. An academy that does not involve all of our sports is less likely to meet the objective of sporting success across a broad range of activities.

Yours sincerely,  
PAUL JACKSON,  
Hill Farmhouse,  
Seend Hill, Seend, Wiltshire.  
August 15.

From the Director of the

National Playing Fields Association

Sir, The disengagement of what sports organisations should benefit from the lottery-financed sports academy masks a much more important argument over sports and sports funding in this country.

No one disagrees with the proposition that we should be trying to produce more world champions in a whole range of sports, and to that end money will presumably be targeted at the potential superstars who can bring gold medals home for Britain.

But sport exists at the other end of the scale too—where a few children throw their coats on the ground for a game of soccer or rounders. The places where they can do that in safety are vanishing all the time.

The National Playing Fields Association applied for lottery funding to provide basic sports equipment for children and young people in a number of recreation grounds. The application was turned down in 1995, and our appeal against that decision waited two years for a reply.

A hundred million pounds can ap-

parently be found for champions and high achievers, but a request for simple facilities to enable the nation's children to enjoy sport in a safe environment gets a very low priority.

Is this really the people's lottery?

Yours faithfully,  
ELSA DAVIES,  
Director,  
National Playing Fields Association,  
25 Ovington Square, SW3.  
August 18.

From Ms B. C. Morrish

Sir, Well might the British Government be impressed enough with our Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) to consider an equivalent here in the UK. However, your leading article simplifies its organisation and underestimates its success.

The AIS is not a simple institution where athletes of all disciplines train together. It is administered from a headquarters in Canberra, while most athletes train elsewhere, many near their own homes, under the guidance of state-run or specialist AIS departments.

The institute certainly has had some problems co-ordinating the sporting development of a relatively small population spread over a large area, but its success has been significant. Your emphasis on the one admittedly mystifying failure of Australian sport over the past couple of decades, namely singles tennis, is unfair. In other sports (including doubles tennis) Australia has captured more medals per head of population at Olympic and world championship level than almost any other country.

However, while the talents of many of our sportsmen and women have been developed through the AIS, it has been their identification and encouragement at grassroots level, through local clubs and schools, that has ensured a supply of quality cricketers, runners, swimmers, etc.

England needs to follow Australia's lead and create a national sporting academy which can co-ordinate the identification and development of raw talent from all sporting disciplines.

Yours sincerely,  
BRONWYN MORRISH,  
54 Evergreen Drive,  
Hull, East Yorkshire.  
b.c.morrish@btiscsi.hull.ac.uk  
August 18.

### Japanese war crimes

From Mr A. H. P. Humphrey

Sir, I salute with respect those Japanese veterans who want the atrocities committed by the Imperial Army in countries Japan invaded and occupied in 1941-45 to be acknowledged and not covered up in Japanese school textbooks (report, August 14). That must not be the end of the matter, however.

On September 18, 1945, a news-sheet issued by the Australian Military Forces Abroad reported that Colonel Suga, commander-in-charge of all prison camps in Borneo, committed suicide at Labuan by cutting his throat with a blunt table knife.

As the Allies gained the upper hand in the Pacific, Suga, allegedly on orders from Tokyo, had planned that there should be no survivors of the camps to be liberated, and the figures tell the tale. By August 1945 there were only six survivors from 2,000 prisoners in Sandakan camps and 700 out of 2,000 had died in the camp at Kuching.

In prisons in Borneo for three and a

half years, I was painfully aware that few of those who perished died quickly. They died from slow deliberate starvation, beatings and bashing, forced labour and, on the "death march" from Sandakan to the interior, from exhaustion.

A few Japanese suicides cannot expiate such horrific crimes. Nor are they the responsibility of the present generation of Japanese or the present Japanese Government. The responsibility rested ultimately with Emperor Hirohito, who offered to abdicate, but Douglas MacArthur decided he should remain on his throne.

Only Emperor Akihito can now save the consciences of his subjects and stop the manipulation of school books by making an apology to the heads of states whose nationals suffered these dreadful brutalities.

Yours faithfully,  
A. H. P. HUMPHREY,  
(British Resident, Labuan,  
Straits Settlements, 1940-42,  
14 Ambrose Place,  
Worthing, West Sussex.  
August 14.

### Mir damage

From Mr M. R. Carter

Sir, You report (August 15) that some members of the Russian space agency want Vasil Tshilyev to be punished for allegedly "miscalculating the weight of the craft involved in June's collision". Calculation of momentum would have been necessary to determine the force needed to bring the module to rest relative to Mir, but the equations require the mass of the craft, not its weight.

An object in orbit is essentially weightless, but, unless it is a certain type of subatomic particle, it cannot be massless. Though it weighed not a whit (or a newton for that matter) where it was, the spacecraft inflicted considerable damage by virtue of inertia, an inescapable consequence of its mass.

I hazard a guess that the Russian language must make a clear distinction between weight and mass or it would never have allowed the Russians to have a successful space programme at all.

Yours sincerely,  
M. R. CARTER,  
89 Malvern Way,  
Hastings, East Sussex.  
August 15.

### Sporting psalm

From Dr Ian Olson

Sir, The "chase" in which the over-heated heart is panting in Tate and Brady's hymn based on Psalm 42 (letters, July 25, August 1, 11, 15) is no bloodsport.

It is merely what in Scotland we would call a deer forest. Why not leave the poor thing there?

Yours faithfully,  
IAN OLSON,  
20 Burns Road, Aberdeen.  
August 15.

### Intelligence tests

From Mr Graham King

Sir, The French psychologist credited by Tony Buzan with the invention of intelligence tests ("Tests that freed an underclass", *Mind* Sports Olympiad supplement, August 11) was Alfred Binet (1857-1911). His researches were later used by Stanford University in California to set up intelligence tests—hence the name Stanford-Binet.

Binet observed the different stages of child development—such as dressing, washing, doing up buttons, tying shoelaces—and gave a mental age to each.

Stanford University later related this mental age (MA) to the child's chronological age (CA) and produced an intelligence quotient: if the two ages are the same then the child's IQ is 100. With CA 10 and MA 12 the child's IQ is 120.

Tests such as these can be used with groups; but I believe that Alfred Binet's original tests were carried out on a one-to-one basis, as is the case today.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM KING,  
25 Shelley Avenue,  
St Marychurch, Torquay, Devon.  
August 11.

### Essex man

From Mr Ian Liston

Sir, Dr Chris Pond (letter, August 18) is surely erroneous in his assertion that Essex is God's Own County. That appellation belonged to Surrey until six weeks ago, when my wife and I moved to the new title-holder, Sussex.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN LISTON,  
1 Nyes Hill, Wincham Lane,  
Bolney, West Sussex.  
hissboo@msn.com  
August 18.

### Lifesaving string to whistle's blow

From Group Captain

V. H. P. LYNHAM, DSO (ret'd)

Sir, If the Reverend John Titchhurst (letter, August 15) is ever unfortunate enough to be involved in an aircraft coming down in the sea out of sight of land I suggest that he might find the whistle attached to his lifejacket a great deal more use than a radio tracking device.

He will soon realise that number one priority is to get into a dinghy/life raft. Swimming in even a moderate sea he might well be out of sight, and out of earshot of his occupants at 25 yards; at night he would almost certainly be out of sight at ten yards. That is when a whistle, with its penetrating power, can be "something actually useful".

I speak with conviction, having commanded the first long-range air-sea rescue squadron operating in the North Sea (and elsewhere) during 1942, during which time official records state "the squadron was directly responsible for the successful rescue of 55 members of aircrew". Not one of those rescued had taken more than three or four minutes to get into his dinghy and most ditchings were by night. Whistles became standard aircrew issue in 1941.

Yours faithfully,  
V. H. P. LYNHAM,  
Blue Pines,  
Yew Tree Lane,  
Rotherfield, East Sussex.  
August 15.

From Dr J. A. Collings-Wells

Sir, Clearly Mr Titchhurst, if a regular reader of *The Times*, has forgotten an inspiring article that appeared in the paper on March 22, 1962.

Your anonymous correspondent recalled the night, 22 years earlier, when, as captain of a destroyer on convoy duty in the Atlantic, he rescued the chief officer of a merchant ship—one of 12 just torpedoed and sunk by German U-boats. He had been ordered to go back and search for survivors.

I heard in the middle of the ocean 500 miles from land on a dark night the clear, penetrating sound of a whistle blowing. It was very eerie. I immediately stopped and went astern and as the way came off my ship I heard a man below me calling out: "Don't go away, that destroyer. Don't go away."

I looked over the side and there he was going down my starboard side on a piece of wood... "Stop starboard", but I was too late and I washed him off his plank. I could hear him calling: "I can't swim. Don't go away", but I reckoned his lifebelt would hold him.

I took the ship back alongside him and picked him up. He was the Chief Officer of the *Whitford Point*. He had been three hours in the water and was, in his own words, waiting for a Sunderland (flying boat) in the morning...

Before landing at Londonderry, the officer came and thanked me for saving his life. "Don't thank me," I said. "Thank your Creator for guiding my ship to you, and your whistle." "A friend told me to carry a whistle," he said. "You had better find him and give him a good dinner," I replied.

Yours truly,  
JOHN COLLINGS-WELLS,  
Rivercroft,  
Undersshore Road,  
Lymington, Hampshire.  
August 15.

From Mr Geoffrey Atkinson

Sir, Mr Titchhurst makes a nice point in suggesting that airline safety jackets fitted with radio tracking devices rather than whistles would be of more use, should he need to call for help in the mighty ocean. I can tell him that airlines worldwide, including my employer, would welcome the device if it enabled them to track the thousands of lifejackets which passengers steal annually from seat pouches on their aircraft.

I plan an anthology of the explanations given by such miscreants when prosecutions commence.

In the meantime airlines will continue prompt replacement of stolen safety jackets to ensure that should passengers find themselves floating around in the mighty ocean they will at least have a whistle to rely on.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY ATKINSON  
(Group Lawyer),  
Monarch Airlines Limited,  
London Luton Airport,  
Luton, Bedfordshire.  
August 15.

### She, who must be...

From Mr Henry Wickens

Sir, I must take issue with your report ("Cartoon sexism bugs women in search of heroes", August 18) over one of the examples it gives of "non-assertive" female characters in children's TV.

It is perfectly clear that Little Wee in *Bill and Ben* runs the whole show. She wields the ultimate sanction for the under-fives, the Power of Bedtime, thus putting her on an equal footing with Zedee in *The Magic Roundabout* (male) and the sun-god baby in *Tootles* (sex unspecified).

Yours faithfully,  
HENRY WICKENS,  
14 Kalkwille,  
L-7681 Waldbillig, Luxembourg.  
hwickens@europarl.eu.int  
August 19.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number—0171-782 5046.  
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk







**MAJOR-GENERAL JOHN CHURCHER**

W. S. G.: There is a very wide distinction. In a novel when you write that Eliza slipped off her dressing-gown and stepped into her bath there is no objection to it, but if that were reconstructed on



## DEGREE COURSE VACANCIES 1997-98

## UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE HOTLINE NUMBERS FOR DEGREE COURSES

UP-TO-DATE degree vacancies appear today for science courses for students aiming to convert their A-level grades into a place at university or college this autumn.

Places at popular institutions are being taken up more rapidly than in previous years as students try to claim the last "free" places before the Government's introduction of annual £1,000 tuition fees and phasing out of maintenance grants next year.

Fully updated degree vacancies are published in *The Times* in a three-day cycle throughout August, with arts and social sciences on Thursdays and Mondays, engineering and technology on Fridays and Tuesdays, and science on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

An asterisk shows courses are part of modular schemes, available in a variety of combinations. All others are identified by the course code in the Ucas handbook.

## AGRICULTURE/AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

Aberdeen, D22, D23, D24, D25, D26, D27, D28, D29, D30, D31, D32, D33, D34, D35, D36, D37, D38, D39, D40, D41, D42, D43, D44, D45, D46, D47, D48, D49, D50, D51, D52, D53, D54, D55, D56, D57, D58, D59, D60, D61, D62, D63, D64, D65, D66, D67, D68, D69, D70, D71, D72, D73, D74, D75, D76, D77, D78, D79, D80, D81, D82, D83, D84, D85, D86, D87, D88, D89, D90, D91, D92, D93, D94, D95, D96, D97, D98, D99, D100, D101, D102, D103, D104, D105, D106, D107, D108, D109, D110, D111, D112, D113, D114, D115, D116, D117, D118, D119, D120, D121, D122, D123, D124, D125, D126, D127, D128, D129, D130, D131, D132, D133, D134, D135, D136, D137, D138, D139, D140, D141, D142, D143, D144, D145, D146, D147, D148, D149, D150, D151, D152, D153, D154, D155, D156, D157, D158, D159, D160, D161, D162, D163, D164, D165, D166, D167, D168, D169, D170, D171, D172, D173, D174, D175, D176, D177, D178, D179, D180, D181, D182, D183, D184, D185, D186, D187, D188, D189, D190, D191, D192, D193, D194, D195, D196, D197, D198, D199, D200, D201, D202, D203, D204, D205, D206, D207, D208, D209, D210, D211, D212, D213, D214, D215, D216, D217, D218, D219, D220, D221, D222, D223, D224, D225, D226, D227, D228, D229, D230, D231, D232, D233, D234, D235, D236, D237, D238, D239, D240, D241, D242, D243, D244, D245, D246, D247, D248, D249, D250, D251, D252, D253, D254, D255, D256, D257, D258, D259, D260, D261, D262, D263, D264, D265, D266, D267, D268, D269, D270, D271, D272, D273, D274, D275, D276, D277, D278, D279, D280, D281, D282, D283, D284, D285, D286, D287, D288, D289, D290, D291, D292, D293, D294, D295, D296, D297, D298, D299, D300, D301, D302, D303, D304, D305, D306, D307, D308, D309, D310, D311, D312, D313, D314, D315, D316, D317, D318, D319, D320, D321, D322, D323, D324, D325, D326, D327, D328, D329, D330, D331, D332, D333, D334, D335, D336, D337, D338, D339, D340, D341, D342, D343, D344, D345, D346, D347, D348, D349, D350, D351, D352, D353, D354, D355, D356, D357, D358, D359, D360, D361, D362, D363, D364, D365, D366, D367, D368, D369, D370, D371, D372, D373, D374, D375, D376, D377, D378, D379, D380, D381, D382, D383, D384, D385, D386, D387, D388, D389, D390, D391, D392, D393, D394, D395, D396, D397, D398, D399, D400, D401, D402, D403, D404, D405, D406, D407, D408, D409, D410, D411, D412, D413, D414, D415, D416, D417, D418, D419, D420, D421, D422, D423, D424, D425, D426, D427, D428, D429, D430, D431, D432, D433, D434, D435, D436, D437, D438, D439, D440, D441, D442, D443, D444, D445, D446, D447, D448, D449, D450, D451, D452, D453, D454, D455, D456, D457, D458, D459, D460, D461, D462, D463, D464, D465, D466, D467, D468, D469, D470, D471, D472, D473, D474, D475, D476, D477, D478, D479, D480, D481, D482, D483, D484, D485, D486, D487, D488, D489, D490, D491, D492, D493, D494, D495, D496, D497, D498, D499, D500, D501, D502, D503, D504, D505, D506, D507, D508, D509, D510, D511, D512, D513, D514, D515, D516, D517, D518, D519, D520, D521, D522, D523, D524, D525, D526, D527, D528, D529, D530, D531, D532, D533, D534, D535, D536, D537, D538, D539, D540, D541, D542, D543, D544, D545, D546, D547, D548, D549, D550, D551, D552, D553, D554, D555, D556, D557, D558, D559, D560, D561, D562, D563, D564, D565, D566, D567, D568, D569, D570, D571, D572, D573, D574, D575, D576, D577, D578, D579, D580, D581, D582, D583, D584, D585, D586, D587, D588, D589, D590, D591, D592, D593, D594, D595, D596, D597, D598, D599, D600, D601, D602, D603, D604, D605, D606, D607, D608, D609, D610, D611, D612, D613, D614, D615, D616, D617, D618, D619, D620, D621, D622, D623, D624, D625, D626, D627, D628, D629, D630, D631, D632, D633, D634, D635, D636, D637, D638, D639, D640, D641, D642, D643, D644, D645, D646, D647, D648, D649, D650, D651, D652, D653, D654, D655, D656, D657, D658, D659, D660, D661, D662, D663, D664, D665, D666, D667, D668, D669, D670, D671, D672, D673, D674, D675, D676, D677, D678, D679, D680, D681, D682, D683, D684, D685, D686, D687, D688, D689, D690, D691, D692, D693, D694, D695, D696, D697, D698, D699, D700, D701, D702, D703, D704, D705, D706, D707, D708, D709, D710, D711, D712, D713, D714, D715, D716, D717, D718, D719, D720, D721, D722, D723, D724, D725, D726, D727, D728, D729, D730, D731, D732, D733, D734, D735, D736, D737, D738, D739, D740, D741, D742, D743, D744, D745, D746, D747, D748, D749, D750, D751, D752, D753, D754, D755, D756, D757, D758, D759, D760, D761, D762, D763, D764, D765, D766, D767, D768, D769, D770, D771, D772, D773, D774, D775, D776, D777, D778, D779, D780, D781, D782, D783, D784, D785, D786, D787, D788, D789, D790, D791, D792, D793, D794, D795, D796, D797, D798, D799, D800, D801, D802, D803, D804, D805, D806, D807, D808, D809, D810, D811, D812, D813, D814, D815, D816, D817, D818, D819, D820, D821, D822, D823, D824, D825, D826, D827, D828, D829, D830, D831, D832, D833, D834, D835, D836, D837, D838, D839, D840, D841, D842, D843, D844, D845, D846, D847, D848, D849, D850, D851, D852, D853, D854, D855, D856, D857, D858, D859, D860, D861, D862, D863, D864, D865, D866, D867, D868, D869, D870, D871, D872, D873, D874, D875, D876, D877, D878, D879, D880, D881, D882, D883, D884, D885, D886, D887, D888, D889, D890, D891, D892, D893, D894, D895, D896, D897, D898, D899, D900, D901, D902, D903, D904, D905, D906, D907, D908, D909, D910, D911, D912, D913, D914, D915, D916, D917, D918, D919, D920, D921, D922, D923, D924, D925, D926, D927, D928, D929, D930, D931, D932, D933, D934, D935, D936, D937, D938, D939, D940, D941, D942, D943, D944, D945, D946, D947, D948, D949, D950, D951, D952, D953, D954, D955, D956, D957, D958, D959, D960, D961, D962, D963, D964, D965, D966, D967, D968, D969, D970, D971, D972, D973, D974, D975, D976, D977, D978, D979, D980, D981, D982, D983, D984, D985, D986, D987, D988, D989, D990, D991, D992, D993, D994, D995, D996, D997, D998, D999, D1000, D1001, D1002, D1003, D1004, D1005, D1006, D1007, D1008, D1009, D1010, D1011, D1012, D1013, D1014, D1015, D1016, D1017, D1018, D1019, D1020, D1021, D1022, D1023, D1024, D1025, D1026, D1027, D1028, D1029, D1030, D1031, D1032, D1033, D1034, D1035, D1036, D1037, D1038, D1039, D1040, D1041, D1042, D1043, D1044, D1045, D1046, D1047, D1048, D1049, D1050, D1051, D1052, D1053, D1054, D1055, D1056, D1057, D1058, D1059, D1060, D1061, D1062, D1063, D1064, D1065, D1066, D1067, D1068, D1069, D1070, D1071, D1072, D1073, D1074, D1075, D1076, D1077, D1078, D1079, D1080, D1081, D1082, D1083, D1084, D1085, D1086, D1087, D1088, D1089, D1090, D1091, D1092, D1093, D1094, D1095, D1096, D1097, D1098, D1099, D1100, D1101, D1102, D1103, D1104, D1105, D1106, D1107, D1108, D1109, D1110, D1111, D1112, D1113, D1114, D1115, D1116, D1117, D1118, D1119, D1120, D1121, D1122, D1123, D1124, D1125, D1126, D1127, D1128, D1129, D1130, D1131, D1132, D1133, D1134, D1135, D1136, D1137, D1138, D1139, D1140, D1141, D1142, D1143, D1144, D1145, D1146, D1147, D1148, D1149, D1150, D1151, D1152, D1153, D1154, D1155, D1156, D1157, D1158, D1159, D1160, D1161, D1162, D1163, D1164, D1165, D1166, D1167, D1168, D1169, D1170, D1171, D1172, D1173, D1174, D1175, D1176, D1177, D1178, D1179, D1180, D1181, D1182, D1183, D1184, D1185, D1186, D1187, D1188, D1189, D1190, D1191, D1192, D1193, D1194, D1195, D1196, D1197, D1198, D1199, D1200, D1201, D1202, D1203, D1204, D1205, D1206, D1207, D1208, D1209, D1210, D1211, D1212, D1213, D1214, D1215, D1216, D1217, D1218, D1219, D1220, D1221, D1222, D1223, D1224, D1225, D1226, D1227, D1228, D1229, D1230, D1231, D1232, D1233, D1234, D1235, D1236, D1237, D1238, D1239, D1240, D1241, D1242, D1243, D1244, D1245, D1246, D1247, D1248, D1249, D1250, D1251, D1252, D1253, D1254, D1255, D1256, D1257, D1258, D1259, D1260, D1261, D1262, D1263, D1264, D1265, D1266, D1267, D1268, D1269, D1270, D1271, D1272, D1273, D1274, D1275, D1276, D1277, D1278, D1279, D1280, D1281, D1282, D1283, D1284, D1285, D1286, D1287, D1288, D1289, D1290, D1291, D1292, D1293, D1294, D1295, D1296, D1297, D1298, D1299, D1300, D1301, D1302, D1303, D1304, D1305, D1306, D1307, D1308, D1309, D1310, D1311, D1312, D1313, D1314, D1315, D1316, D1317, D1318, D1319, D1320, D1321, D1322, D1323, D1324, D1325, D1326, D1327, D1328, D1329, D1330, D1331, D1332, D1333, D1334, D1335, D1336, D1337, D1338, D1339, D1340, D1341, D1342, D1343, D1344, D1345, D1346, D1347, D1348, D1349, D1350, D1351, D1352, D1353, D1354, D1355, D1356, D1357, D1358, D1359, D1360, D1361, D1362, D1363, D1364, D1365, D1366, D1367, D1368, D1369, D1370, D1371, D1372, D1373, D1374, D1375, D1376, D1377, D1378, D1379, D1380, D1381, D1382, D1383, D1384, D1385, D1386, D1387, D1388, D1389, D1390, D1391, D1392, D1393, D1394, D1395, D1396, D1397, D1398, D1399, D1400, D1401, D1402, D1403, D1404, D1405, D1406, D1407, D1408, D1409, D1410, D1411, D1412, D1413, D1414, D1415, D1416, D1417, D1418, D1419, D1420, D1421, D1422, D1423, D1424, D1425, D1426, D1427, D1428, D1429, D1430, D1431, D1432, D1433, D1434, D1435, D1436, D1437, D1438, D1439, D1440, D1441, D1442, D1443, D1444, D1445, D1446, D1447, D1448, D1449, D1450, D1451, D1452, D1453, D1454, D1455, D1456, D1457, D1458, D1459, D1460, D1461, D1462, D1463, D1464, D1465, D1466, D1467, D1468, D1469, D1470, D1471, D1472, D1473, D1474, D1475, D1476, D1477, D1478, D1479, D1480, D1481, D1482, D1483, D1484, D1485, D1486, D1487, D1488, D1489, D1490, D1491, D1492, D1493, D1494, D1495, D1496, D1497, D1498, D1499, D1500, D1501, D1502, D1503, D1504, D1505, D1506, D1507, D1508, D1509, D1510, D1511, D1512, D1513, D1514, D1515, D1516, D1517, D1518, D1519, D1520, D1521, D1522, D1523, D1524, D1525, D1526, D1527, D1528, D1529, D1530, D1531, D1532, D1533, D1534, D1535, D1536, D1537, D1538, D1539, D1540, D1541, D1542, D1543, D1544, D1545, D1546, D1547, D1548, D1549, D1550, D1551, D1552, D1553, D1554, D1555, D1556, D1557, D1558, D1559, D1560, D1561, D1562, D1563, D1564, D1565, D1566, D1567, D1568, D1569, D1570, D1571, D1572, D1573, D1574, D1575, D1576, D1577, D1578, D1579, D1580, D1581, D1582, D1583, D1584, D1585, D1586, D1587, D1588, D1589, D1590, D1591, D1592, D1593, D1594, D1595, D1596, D1597, D1598, D1599, D1600, D1601, D1602, D1603, D1604, D1605, D1606, D1607, D1608, D1609, D1610, D1611, D1612, D1613, D1614, D1615, D1616, D1617, D1618, D1619, D1620, D1621, D1622, D1623, D1624, D1625, D1626, D1627, D1628, D1629, D1630, D1631, D1632, D1633, D1634, D1635, D1636, D1637, D1638, D1639, D1640, D1641, D1642, D1643, D1644, D1645, D1646, D1647, D1648, D1649, D1650, D1651, D1652, D1653, D1654, D1655, D1656, D1657, D1658, D1659, D1660, D1661, D1662, D1663, D1664, D1665, D1666, D1667, D1668, D1669, D1670, D1671, D1672, D1673, D1674, D1675, D1676, D1677, D1678, D1679, D1680, D1681, D1682, D1683, D1684, D1685, D1686, D1687, D1688, D1689, D1690, D1691, D1692, D1693, D1694, D1695, D1696, D1697, D1698, D1699, D1700, D1701, D1702, D1703, D1704, D1705, D1706, D1707, D1708, D1709, D1710, D1711, D1712, D1713, D1714, D1715, D1716, D1717, D1718, D1719, D1720, D1721, D1722, D1723, D1724, D1725, D1726, D1727, D1728, D1729, D1730, D1731, D1732, D1733, D1734, D1735, D1736, D1737, D1738, D1739, D1740, D1741, D1742, D1743, D1744, D1745, D1746, D1747, D1748, D1749, D1750, D1751, D1752, D1753, D1754, D1755, D1756, D1757, D1758, D1759, D1760, D1761, D1762, D1763, D1764, D1765, D1766, D1767, D1768, D1769, D1770, D1771, D1772, D1773, D1774, D1775, D1776, D1777, D1778, D1779, D1780, D1781, D1782, D1783, D1784, D1785, D1786, D1787, D1788, D1789, D1790, D1791, D1792, D1793, D1794, D1795, D1796, D1797, D1798, D1799, D1800, D1801, D1802, D1803, D1804, D1805, D1806, D1807, D1808, D1809, D1810, D1811, D1812, D1813, D1814, D1815, D1816, D1817, D1818, D1819, D1820, D1821, D1822, D1823, D1824, D1825, D1826, D1827, D1828, D1829, D1830, D1831, D1832, D1833, D1834, D1835, D1836, D1837, D1838, D1839, D1840, D1841, D1842, D1843, D1844, D1845, D1846, D1847, D1848, D1849, D1850, D1851, D1852, D1853, D1854, D1855, D1856, D1857, D1858, D1859, D1860, D1861, D1862, D1863, D1864, D1865, D1866, D1867, D1868, D1869, D1870, D1871, D1872, D1873, D1874, D1875, D1876, D1877, D1878, D1879, D1880, D1881, D1882, D1883, D1884, D1885, D1886, D1887, D1888, D1889, D1890, D1891, D1892, D1893, D1894, D1895, D1896, D1897, D1898, D1899, D1900, D1901, D1902, D1903, D1904, D1905, D1906, D1907, D1908, D1909, D1910, D1911, D1912, D1913, D1914, D1915, D1916, D1917, D1918, D1919, D1920, D1921, D1922, D1923, D1924, D1925, D1926, D1927, D1928, D1929, D1930, D1931, D1932, D1933, D1934, D1935, D1936, D1937, D1938, D1939, D1940, D1941, D1942, D1943, D1944, D1945, D1946, D1947, D1948, D1949, D1950, D1951, D1952, D1953, D1954, D1955, D1956, D1957, D1958, D1959, D1960, D1961, D1962, D1963, D1964, D1965, D1966, D1967, D1968, D1969, D1970, D1971, D1972, D1973, D1974, D1975, D1976, D1977, D1978, D1979, D1980, D1981, D1982, D1983, D1984, D1985, D1986, D1987, D1988, D1989, D1990, D1991, D1992, D1993, D1994, D1995, D1996, D1997, D1998, D1999, D2000, D2001, D2002, D2003, D2004, D2005, D2006, D2007, D2008, D2009, D2010, D2011, D2012, D2013, D2014, D2015, D2016, D2017, D2018, D2019, D2020, D2021, D2022, D2023, D2024, D2025, D2026, D2027, D2028, D2029, D2030, D2031, D2032, D2033, D2034, D2035, D2036, D2037, D2038, D2039, D2040, D2041, D2042, D2043, D2044, D2045, D2046, D2047, D2048, D2049, D2050, D2051, D2052, D2053, D2054, D2055, D2056, D2057, D2058, D2059, D2060, D2061, D2062, D2063, D2064, D2065, D2066, D2067, D2068, D2069, D2070, D2071, D2072, D2073, D2074, D2075, D2076, D2077, D2078, D2079, D2080, D2081, D2082, D2083, D2084, D2085, D2086, D2087, D2088, D2089, D2090, D2091, D2092, D2093, D2094, D2095, D2096, D2097, D2098, D2099, D2100, D2101, D2102, D2103, D2104, D2105, D2106, D2107, D2108, D2109, D2110, D2111, D2112, D2113, D2114, D2115, D2116, D2117, D2118, D2119, D2120, D2121, D2122, D2123, D2124, D2125, D2126, D2127, D2128, D2129, D2130, D2131, D2132, D2133, D2134, D2135, D2136, D2137, D2138, D2139, D2140, D2141, D2142, D2143, D2144, D2145, D2146, D2147, D2148, D2149, D2150, D2151, D2152, D2153, D2154, D2155, D2156, D2157, D2158, D2159, D2160, D2161, D2162, D2163, D2164, D2165, D2166, D2167, D2168, D216



## Court of Appeal

## Law Report August 20 1997

## Court of Appeal

## Choosing judicial review or action

**Trustees of the Dennis Rye Pension Fund and Another v Sheffield City Council**

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Pill  
[Judgment July 31]

In considering whether a litigant should have brought judicial review proceedings or an ordinary action against a public body, the court should look at the practical consequences of the decision rather than just technical questions concerning the distinction between public and private rights.

If the choice made had no significant disadvantages for the parties, the public or the court, then it should not normally be regarded as constituting an abuse of process.

A local authority's refusal to give improvement grants under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to repair premises fit for human habitation was capable of giving rise to private law rights which could be enforced by a writ action.

The Court of Appeal held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Sheffield City Council, against decisions of Mr Justice Millett on December 16, 1995 and September 5, 1996 refusing to strike out the actions of the plaintiffs, the trustees of the Dennis Rye Pension Fund, for the payment of improvement grants pursuant to section 113 of the 1989 Act.

Mr Ashley Underwood and Mrs Lisa Giovannetti for the council; Mr Ian A. B. McLaren, QC and Mr Tony Cranfield for the plaintiffs.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the appeal had raised yet again issues as to the relationship between public and private law proceedings. It illustrated the fact that, despite hopes to the contrary, a substantial volume of the resources of the parties and the courts were still being consumed to little or no purpose over largely technical issues.

as to whether the correct procedure had been adopted.

The claims against the council were for sums alleged to be due by way of improvement grants for work done by the plaintiffs following the service of a repair notice requiring work to be carried out to render premises fit for human habitation under section 109 of the Housing Act 1985.

The council's argument was that if the plaintiffs had any grounds of complaint then the only appropriate procedure was an application for judicial review and not an ordinary action.

The 1985 and 1989 Acts contained a statutory code for the approval of grants which was designed to give to the person entitled to the benefit of the grant a right to payment of the grant or compliance with the conditions contained in the legislation. When that had happened the council had no justification for refusing payment.

In that situation there was no reason why the council could not bring an ordinary action to recover the amount of the grant which was unpaid as an ordinary debt. It would be disproportionate to seek a remedy of, say, mandamus or a declaration by way of judicial review to enforce payment.

Any suggestion that there had been any abuse of process involved in bringing an ordinary action would be totally misconceived. It would be that questions, such as whether the council was entitled to be used for debt collecting.

In the present case, however, there was a dispute as to whether the conditions had been fulfilled and, in particular, the council contended that the works had not been completed to satisfaction as required, inter alia, by section 113(3) of the 1989 Act. At any trial of the actions one of the principal issues was likely to be whether the council was entitled to withhold its satisfaction.

In his Lordship's judgment, as in *Roe v Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster Family Practitioner Committee* [1992] 1 AC 592, the plaintiffs' relationship with a public body, whether statutory or contractual, conferred on them conditional rights to payment so that the bringing of ordinary actions to enforce those rights was not in itself an abuse of process.

Any challenge to a council's refusal to express satisfaction would depend on an examination of issues largely of fact which were more appropriately examined in the course of ordinary proceedings than on an application for judicial review.

That was the class of issue which, if it could not be resolved by mediation, was ideally resolved by a trial with the assistance of a report from a surveyor jointly instructed by both parties. Such an approach would be infinitely more in the interests of the councils, the taxpayers, the landlords and the courts than an application for judicial review.

What could be done to stop the constant unprofitable litigation over the divide between public and private law proceedings? The guidance which Lord Diplock gave in *O'Reilly v Mackman* [1983] 2 AC 237 involved recognising:

1 That remedies for protecting both private and public rights could be given in both private law proceedings and on an application for judicial review.

2 That judicial review provided, in the interests of the public, protection for public bodies which was not available in private law proceedings. The guidance as to the protection against delay, the proceedings would be heard by a High Court judge and would be managed by the Crown Office which had the necessary experience of public law proceedings. The court should, as an expedition, be dealt with in a manner which was appropriate.

3 That for those reasons it was a general rule that it was contrary to public policy and as such an abuse of the process of the court, to permit a party seeking to establish that a decision of a public authority infringed rights to which he was entitled to protection under public law to proceed by way of an ordinary action and by that means to evade the provisions of Order 53

of the Rules of the Supreme Court for the protection of such authorities.

Having established the foundation of the general rule it seemed to his Lordship that there would be a reduction in the difficulties which were apparently being experienced at present by practitioners and the courts, if it was remembered that:

1 If it was not clear whether judicial review or an ordinary action was the correct procedure it would be safer to make an application for judicial review than to commence an ordinary action since there then should be no question of being treated as abusing the process of the court by avoiding the protection provided by judicial review.

In the majority of cases it should not be necessary for purely procedural reasons to become involved in and arguments as to whether the issues were correctly treated as involving public or private law. For the sake of substance law it might be necessary to consider that issue.

If judicial review was used when it should not, the court could protect its resources either by directing that the application should continue as if begun by writ or by directing it should be heard by a judge who was not nominated to hear cases in the Crown Office list. It was difficult to see how a respondent could be prejudiced by the adoption of that course and there was little risk that anything more damaging could happen than a refusal of leave.

2 If a case was brought by an ordinary action and there was an application to strike out if it was considered that the wrong procedure had been adopted. Often the interests of justice and the parties would be better served by getting on with the action. Crown Office there should be no appeal unless there was some practical reason for doing so.

If that approach was adopted it was obvious that the issues in the present case could be more conveniently dealt with in an ordinary action than on an application for judicial review.

If his Lordship had had doubt as to what should be the outcome of the appeal without taking account of the practical considerations then they would not have been beyond doubt. His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Millett agreed and Lord Justice Pill gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Mr Mark Webster, Sheffield; King & Brook, Chesterfield.

case could be appropriately tried. If the answer was that an ordinary action was equally or more appropriate than an application for judicial review that again should be an indication the action should not be struck out.

3 Finally, in cases where it was unclear whether proceedings had been correctly brought by an ordinary action it should be remembered that after consulting the Crown Office a case could always be transferred in the Crown Office list as an alternative to being struck out.

His Lordship hoped that those far from comprehensive pragmatic suggestions would be of some assistance. They involved not only considering the technical questions of the distinctions between public and private rights and bodies but also looking at the practical consequences of the choice of procedure which had been made.

If the choice had no significant disadvantages for the parties, the public or the court, then it should not normally be regarded as constituting an abuse of process.

It was important to remember that there did not have to be an application to strike out even if it was considered that the wrong procedure had been adopted. Often the interests of justice and the parties would be better served by getting on with the action. Crown Office there should be no appeal unless there was some practical reason for doing so.

If that approach was adopted it was obvious that the issues in the present case could be more conveniently dealt with in an ordinary action than on an application for judicial review.

If his Lordship had had doubt as to what should be the outcome of the appeal without taking account of the practical considerations then they would not have been beyond doubt. His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Millett agreed and Lord Justice Pill gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Mr Mark Webster, Sheffield; King & Brook, Chesterfield.

**Greenall Management Ltd v Canavan**

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Pill

[Judgment July 31]

Reference to a list which appeared in a public house landlord's current price list meant the list which was current from time to time and not the list which was current at the date of the commencement of a lease for a public house tied to a particular landlord.

The Court of Appeal held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal brought by the tenant, Mr Brendan Canavan, against the decision of Mr Richard Mawrey, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division on November 12, 1996 when he granted an interlocutory injunction to the landlord, Greenall Management Ltd, restraining the tenant from breaching a tied lease agreement in respect of his public house, Golden Lion, 30 Barton Lane, Eddes, Manchester.

Article 6 of Commission Regulation 1964/53/EEC (OJ 1983 L73) provided: "Article 85(3) of the Treaty... (1) Prohibiting and penalising... (2) Agreements which affect trade between member states shall not apply to agreements which are purely and wholly internal to the member states."

In recognition... that the rent... is less than the open market rent... if no obligation were imposed on the tenant to purchase specified beer and specified other drinks... the parties would be better served by getting on with the action. Crown Office there should be no appeal unless there was some practical reason for doing so.

If that approach was adopted it was obvious that the issues in the present case could be more conveniently dealt with in an ordinary action than on an application for judicial review.

If his Lordship had had doubt as to what should be the outcome of the appeal without taking account of the practical considerations then they would not have been beyond doubt. His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Millett agreed and Lord Justice Pill gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Mr Mark Webster, Sheffield; King & Brook, Chesterfield.

drinks wholesaler. In 1991 Boddingtons price list contained very few beers but Greenall's current list contained substantially more.

The tenant committed breaches of the tie in 1992 which he admitted and the matter settled. However, he committed further breaches in 1993 and in November 1996 Greenall obtained the interlocutory injunction in the present case.

No evidence was adduced, the breach was admitted, the tenant admitted he had no prospect of paying damages and the landlord was good for his cross-undertaking in damages. It was therefore a plain case for the grant of an interlocutory injunction.

The tenant, however, raised four points which his Lordship found convenient to dispose of under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

1 Meaning of "the company's current price list"

The tenant submitted that the expression was void for uncertainty. His Lordship rejected that. It was true that the expression was ambiguous and could mean either current at the date of the lease or current from time to time.

The tenant preferred the first but in his Lordship's judgment the context showed that it referred to the latter meaning which included the following:

(i) the lease was standard form and it could not be supposed that Boddingtons had intended to impose obligations to be different according to when leases were taken;

(ii) there was no reason to limit the meaning of clause 5.6 of the lease to prices and to hold that it

expanded, in relation to patent actions; and by Mr Justice Aldous in *Rediffusion International Ltd v Lark Miles Ltd* [1993] FSR 304.

His Lordship found that the plaintiff's letters patent No 157848 and UK patent No 216175 were valid and that the defendant's claims for revocation failed in their entirety and (ii) that, apart from the issue of repair, the plaintiff had established infringement of them, but (iii) that the defendant had made good their defence that their activities had amounted to non-infringing repair.

Solicitors: Ferdinand Kelly, Birmingham; Travers Smith Braithwaite.

## Costs penalty

**United Wire Ltd v Screen Repair Services (Scotland)**

Where a defendant, albeit successful overall, had raised and pursued a substantial number of unsuccessful points, with significant sums in costs being thrown away, robust justice and the obligation of a complete and expensive litigation could be achieved by making no order as to costs.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so stated in the Chancery Division on July 29, in applying the principles laid in *re Elgindata Ltd* (No 2) [1992] 1 WLR 1207, 1214 as

expanded, in relation to patent actions; and by Mr Justice Aldous in *Rediffusion International Ltd v Lark Miles Ltd* [1993] FSR 304.

His Lordship found that the plaintiff's letters patent No 157848 and UK patent No 216175 were valid and that the defendant's claims for revocation failed in their entirety and (ii) that, apart from the issue of repair, the plaintiff had established infringement of them, but (iii) that the defendant had made good their defence that their activities had amounted to non-infringing repair.

Solicitors: Ferdinand Kelly, Birmingham; Travers Smith Braithwaite.

His Lordship found that the plaintiff's letters patent No 157848 and UK patent No 216175 were valid and that the defendant's claims for revocation failed in their entirety and (ii) that, apart from the issue of repair, the plaintiff had established infringement of them, but (iii) that the defendant had made good their defence that their activities had amounted to non-infringing repair.

Solicitors: Ferdinand Kelly, Birmingham; Travers Smith Braithwaite.

His Lordship found that the plaintiff's letters patent No 157848 and UK patent No 216175 were valid and that the defendant's claims for revocation failed in their entirety and (ii) that, apart from the issue of repair, the plaintiff had established infringement of them, but (iii) that the defendant had made good their defence that their activities had amounted to non-infringing repair.

Solicitors: Ferdinand Kelly, Birmingham; Travers Smith Braithwaite.

His Lordship found that the plaintiff's letters patent No 157848 and UK patent No 216175 were valid and that the defendant's claims for revocation failed in their entirety and (ii) that, apart from the issue of repair, the plaintiff had established infringement of them, but (iii) that the defendant had made good their defence that their activities had amounted to non-infringing repair.

Solicitors: Ferdinand Kelly, Birmingham; Travers Smith Braithwaite.

His Lordship found that the plaintiff's letters patent No 157848 and UK patent No 216175 were valid and that the defendant's claims for revocation failed in their entirety and (ii) that, apart from the issue of repair, the plaintiff had established infringement of them, but (iii) that the defendant had made good their defence that their activities had amounted to non-infringing repair.

Solicitors: Ferdinand Kelly, Birmingham; Travers Smith Braithwaite.

His Lordship found that the plaintiff's letters patent No 157848 and UK patent No 216175 were valid and that the defendant's claims for revocation failed in their entirety and (ii) that, apart from the issue of repair, the plaintiff had established infringement of them, but (iii) that the defendant had made good their defence that their activities had amounted to non-infringing repair.

Solicitors: Ferdinand Kelly, Birmingham; Travers Smith Braithwaite.

His Lordship found that the plaintiff's letters patent No 157848 and UK patent No 216175 were valid and that the defendant's claims for revocation failed in their entirety and (ii) that, apart from the issue of repair, the plaintiff had established infringement of them, but (iii) that the defendant had made good their defence that their activities had amounted to non-infringing repair.

Solicitors: Ferdinand Kelly, Birmingham; Travers Smith Braithwaite.

His Lordship found that the plaintiff's letters patent No 157848 and UK patent No 216175 were valid and that the defendant's claims for revocation failed in their entirety and (ii) that, apart from the issue of repair, the plaintiff had established infringement of them, but (iii) that the defendant had made good their defence that their activities had amounted to non-infringing repair.

Solicitors: Ferdinand Kelly, Birmingham; Travers Smith Braithwaite.

His Lordship found that the plaintiff's letters patent No 157848 and UK patent No 216175 were valid and that the defendant's claims for revocation failed in their entirety and (ii) that, apart from the issue of repair, the plaintiff had established infringement of them, but (iii) that the defendant had made good their defence that their activities had amounted to non-infringing repair.

Solicitors: Ferdinand Kelly, Birmingham; Travers Smith Braithwaite.

His Lordship found that the plaintiff's letters patent No 157848 and UK patent No 216175 were valid and that the defendant's claims for revocation failed in their entirety and (ii) that, apart from the issue of repair, the plaintiff had established infringement of them, but (iii) that the defendant had made good their defence that their activities had amounted to non-infringing repair.

## Barrister's immunity from suit in settlements

**Kelley v Corson**

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Millett  
[Judgment July 10]

A barrister's immunity from suit for negligence in the conduct of a case applied in cases where a settlement, which by law required the approval of the court, was made; and also to settlements which were reached at the door of the court.

The Court of Appeal held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Lindsey Ann Kelley, from the decision of Mr Justice Longmore striking out her action against the defendant, Jason Corson, as disclosing no reasonable cause of action.

Mr Peter Smith, QC and Mr Christopher Goodwin for the plaintiff; Mr Rupert Jackson, QC and Mr Susan Sokomon for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE said that the settlement of litigation was not normally encompassed within the principles on which the immunity of the advocate was based.

None of the authorities required and there were no public policy considerations which justified a blanket immunity from suit for negligent advice to a client which resulted in a settlement of his claim reached before the hearing or at the door of the court.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE said that the settlement of litigation was not normally encompassed within the principles on which the immunity of the advocate was based.

None of the authorities required and there were no public policy considerations which justified a blanket immunity from suit for negligent advice to a client which resulted in a settlement of his claim reached before the hearing or at the door of the court.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE said that the settlement of litigation was not normally encompassed within the principles on which the immunity of the advocate was based.

None of the authorities required and there were no public policy considerations which justified a blanket immunity from suit for negligent advice to a client which resulted in a settlement of his claim reached before the hearing or at the door of the court.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE said that the settlement of litigation was not normally encompassed within the principles on which the immunity of the advocate was based.

None of the authorities required and there were no public policy considerations which justified a blanket immunity from suit for negligent advice to a client which resulted in a settlement of his claim reached before the hearing or at the door of the court.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE said that the settlement of litigation was not normally encompassed within the principles on which the immunity of the advocate was based.

None of the authorities required and there were no public policy considerations which justified a blanket immunity from suit for negligent advice to a client which resulted in a settlement of his claim reached before the hearing or at the door of the court.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE said that the settlement of litigation was not normally encompassed within the principles on which the immunity of the advocate was based.

None of the authorities required and there were no public policy considerations which justified a blanket immunity from suit for negligent advice to a client which resulted in a settlement of his claim reached before the hearing or at the door of the court.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE said that the settlement of litigation was not normally encompassed within the principles on which the immunity of the advocate was based.

There were two areas of exception. First, after the hearing had begun, in the sense that the judge began, to consider the plaintiff's claim, it was self-evident that any settlement was intimately connected with the conduct of the case in the presence of the judge and it might indeed involve the judge, and any comments or interventions from him. Accordingly, such settlements fell within the principles of immunity.

The second area of exception concerned settlements which were subject to the approval of the court. In the present case, the settlement of a claim by a person under disability, another settlement of matrimonial proceedings, such as the settlement in the instant case.

Such settlements involved the direct participation of the judge, who was invited to indicate his approval and who was not bound to give it. The responsibility was clearly imposed on the judge who had to make whatever inquiries seemed appropriate to him before making his decision. If he concluded that the settlement arrangements were inappropriate he could not ignore his responsibilities.

For the avoidance of doubt, these exceptions did not include settlements which did not require the approval of the court but which were settled and followed by an order made by consent. In such circumstances the judge had no

contribution to make to the agreed terms. The present case fell within the immunity principle. After negotiations had been carried out between the parties the settlement was placed before the judge for his approval, which he gave. The settlement could not now be impugned by litigation against either advocate.

LORD JUSTICE PILL, concurring in the result, said that there were situations in which the intervention of the court was sufficient in itself to give rise to the immunity.

A settlement in the course of the hearing might be an example. The instant case was not. The instant case was a settlement of a claim by a person under disability, another settlement of matrimonial proceedings, such as the settlement in the instant case.

Such settlements involved the direct participation of the judge, who was invited to indicate his approval and who was not bound to give it. The responsibility was clearly imposed on the judge who had to make whatever inquiries seemed appropriate to him before making his decision. If he concluded that the settlement arrangements were inappropriate he could not ignore his responsibilities.

For the avoidance of doubt, these exceptions did not include settlements which did not require the approval of the court but which were settled and followed by an order made by consent. In such circumstances the judge had no

contribution to make to the agreed terms. The present case fell within the immunity principle. After negotiations had been carried out between the parties the settlement was placed before the judge for his approval, which he gave. The settlement could not now be impugned by litigation against either advocate.

LORD JUSTICE PILL, concurring in the result, said that there were situations in which the intervention of the court was sufficient in itself to give rise to the immunity.

A settlement in the course of the hearing might be an example. The instant case was not. The instant case was a settlement of a claim by a person under disability, another settlement of matrimonial proceedings, such as the settlement in the instant case.

Such settlements involved the direct participation of the judge, who was invited to indicate his approval and who was not bound to give it. The responsibility was clearly imposed on the judge who had to make whatever inquiries seemed appropriate to him before making his decision. If he concluded that the settlement arrangements were inappropriate he could not ignore his responsibilities.

For the avoidance of doubt, these exceptions did not include settlements which did not require the approval of the court but which were settled and followed by an order made by consent. In such circumstances the judge had no

contribution to make to the agreed terms. The present case fell within the immunity principle. After negotiations had been carried out between the parties the settlement was placed before the judge for his approval, which he gave. The settlement could not now be impugned by litigation against either advocate.

LORD JUSTICE PILL, concurring in the result, said that there were situations in which the intervention of the court was sufficient in itself to give rise to the immunity.

A settlement in the course of the hearing might be an example. The instant case was not. The instant case was a settlement of a claim by a person under disability, another settlement of matrimonial proceedings, such as the settlement in the instant case.

There were two areas of exception. First, after the hearing had begun, in the sense that the judge began, to consider the plaintiff's claim, it was self-evident that any settlement was intimately connected with the conduct of the case in the presence of the judge and it might indeed involve the judge, and any comments or interventions from him. Accordingly, such settlements fell within the principles of immunity.

The second area of exception concerned settlements which were subject to the approval of the court. In the present case, the settlement of a claim by a person under disability, another settlement of matrimonial proceedings, such as the settlement in the instant case.

Such settlements involved the direct participation of the judge, who was invited to indicate his approval and who was not bound to give it. The responsibility was clearly imposed on the judge who had to make whatever inquiries seemed appropriate to him before making his decision. If he concluded that the settlement arrangements were inappropriate he could not ignore his responsibilities.

For the avoidance of doubt, these exceptions did not include settlements which did not require the approval of the court but which were settled and followed by an order made by consent. In such circumstances the judge had no

contribution to make to the agreed terms. The present case fell within the immunity principle. After negotiations had been carried out between the parties the settlement was placed before the judge for his approval, which he gave. The settlement could not now be impugned by litigation against either advocate.

LORD JUSTICE PILL, concurring in the result, said that there were situations in which the intervention of the court was sufficient in itself to give rise to the immunity.

A settlement in the course of the hearing might be an example. The instant case was not. The instant case was a settlement of a claim by a person under disability, another settlement of matrimonial proceedings, such as the settlement in the instant case.

Such settlements involved the direct participation of the judge, who was invited to indicate his approval and who was not bound to give it. The responsibility was clearly imposed on the judge who had to make whatever inquiries seemed appropriate to him before making his decision. If he concluded that the settlement arrangements were inappropriate he could not ignore his responsibilities.

For the avoidance of doubt, these exceptions did not include settlements which did not require the approval of the court but which were settled and followed by an order made by consent. In such circumstances the judge had no

contribution to make to the agreed terms. The present case fell within the immunity principle. After negotiations had been carried out between the parties the settlement was placed before the judge for his approval, which he gave. The settlement could not now be impugned by litigation against either advocate.

LORD JUSTICE PILL, concurring in the result, said that there were situations in which the intervention of the court was sufficient in itself to give rise to the immunity.

A settlement in the course of the hearing might be an example. The instant case was not. The instant case was a settlement of a claim by a person under disability, another settlement of matrimonial proceedings, such as the settlement in the instant case.

Such settlements involved the direct participation of the judge, who was invited to indicate his approval and who was not bound to give it. The responsibility was clearly imposed on the judge who had to make whatever inquiries seemed appropriate to him before making his decision. If he concluded that the settlement arrangements were inappropriate he could not ignore his responsibilities.

For the avoidance of doubt, these exceptions did not include settlements which did not require the approval of the court but which were settled and followed by an order made by consent. In such circumstances the judge had no

contribution to make to the agreed terms. The present case fell within the immunity principle. After negotiations had been carried out between the parties the settlement was placed before the judge for his approval, which he gave. The settlement could not now be impugned by litigation against either advocate.

LORD JUSTICE PILL, concurring in the result, said that there were situations in which the intervention of the court was sufficient in itself to give rise to the immunity.

A settlement in the course of the hearing might be an example. The instant case was not. The instant case was a settlement of a claim by a person under disability, another settlement of matrimonial proceedings, such as the settlement in the instant case.

There was no sensible distinction between a settlement in course of trial, which might be reached for reasons unconnected with the events of the trial so far, and a door of court settlement before the trial began. The immunity could not be so narrowly defined as to exclude settlements which involved predicting the likely outcome of a case at the door of the court and settling it before the hearing had begun.

LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS, agreed that the immunity arose in relation to consent orders under the 1973 Act and that it also arose with regard to settlements agreed at the door of the court.

Solicitors: Longrigg Harris, Bath; Veale Wastbrough.

There was no sensible distinction between a settlement in course of trial, which might be reached for reasons unconnected with the events of the trial so far, and a door of court settlement before the trial began. The immunity could not be so narrowly defined as to exclude settlements which involved predicting the likely outcome of a case at the door of the court and settling it before the hearing had begun.

LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS, agreed that the immunity arose in relation to consent orders under the 1973 Act and that it also arose with regard to settlements agreed at the door of the court.

Solicitors: Longrigg Harris, Bath; Veale Wastbrough.

There was no sensible distinction between a settlement in course of trial, which might be reached for reasons unconnected with the events of the trial so far, and a door of court settlement before the trial began. The immunity could not be so narrowly defined as to exclude settlements which involved predicting the likely outcome of a case at the door of the court and settling it before the hearing had begun.

LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS, agreed that the immunity arose in relation to consent orders under the 1973 Act and that it also arose with regard to settlements agreed at the door of the court.



## ITC plans to filter out smoking could start a trend Censor's insensitivity towards the new taboo

In Sligo in the northwest of Ireland last week a never-before-seen film of W. B. Yeats was shown. There on screen, laughing, talking, was the great poet himself, enjoying himself on a cruise in 1927. And what did the crowd of adoring who had come from all over to the annual Yeats summer school make of this glimpse from beyond the grave?

"He's smoking!" If W. B. had walked in the door, he would have been shown out the back. To compound the shock, the reel, taken by a fellow passenger and unearthed recently by a Canadian scholar, showed Mrs Yeats, too, with a bag in her mouth, their two hated heads closing together to light from the same match in the gesture that seemed so debonair in the hinkered Twenties. Didn't they know that smoking causes lung cancer and other diseases?

Absolute truth cannot compromise. I hope that if the Independent Television Commission gets its wish to ban smoking on commercial television before 10pm (except where dramatically relevant — that is, to show somebody as a serial rapist), they will make the ban retrospective. The censors will have a lovely time, cutting the cigarettes out of *Casablanca* and old newsreels like the shots at Yalta where the Great Powers clearly felt their power enhanced by the white cylinder held between the fingers. Ideal for this job would be those who scissor out the naughty bits of films for showing on aircraft.

The second time I saw *Shine*, it was over the Atlantic and the scene at the Royal Academy of Music where the young David Helfgott forgets his trousers when answering the telephone was cut out. Oh sure, this scene was the first big hint that the little genius was going crazy, but what did it matter when morals were at stake?

But ours is a permissive society. It won't tolerate too many bans, just a few. The task of moral guardians now is to pick and choose. The simplest rule is just to go into reverse. Everything once taboo becomes totem and vice versa. Like foxhunting and homosexuality. Or cigarettes and bosoms. Just as smoking has gone on the shock-horror list, the bare female breast has come off. In the United States women have won the right to bare naked chests in public. Men have the freedom, so why should women be deprived? Although there are plenty of reasons why not — in each sex when the clothes come off some parts look nuder than others, and they are not the same parts. The equality argument has won out and it could happen here. Fags out, boobs in.

The wish to delegalise smoking on

television could be satisfied more easily by drawing a time line. No, not the "watershed", the imaginary line drawn to divide children's imaginary from their real bed-times. Rather, an on-screen warning to children that in the past things looked very different from today and someday will look different again. Then there would be no need to censor Nigger Jim out of *Huckleberry Finn* and pretend that Agatha Christie wrote *Ten Little Indians* when she wrote something quite different, no need to pretend that H. G. Wells and other social reformers pre-Holocaust were not great enthusiasts for eugenics nor to think that Maurice Chevalier had anything dirty on his mind when he sang that hymn to paedophilia, *Thank Heaven for Little Girls*.

How much simpler it would be for the ITC to put out public health advice against smoking and then to let dramatists get on with the plays. The television screen could also say that if we had known in the past what we know now, ITV would not have been built upon the faces of housewives saying how happy they were with their whiter wash.



BRENDA MADDOX

HOW'S this for incorrectness? Ireland seems very much like Britain. All the British television channels are on offer, the papers look the same, the headlines much the same: is the Princess of Wales or John Hume about to make a big mistake? Even the media news sounds familiar: "Radio Ireland fails to woo young listeners." If only RTE, Ireland's BBC, were to buy Ulster TV, Northern Ireland's Channel 3, there could be all-Ireland television, like rugby. It won't happen.

IN SLIGO to work on a biography of Yeats, the journalist in me is struck by the heavy use the English-language press and politicians make of the old wizard's words. Just on Ireland alone, leader writers dip freely into the brimming with rich phrases like "great haired, little room," and "a terrible beauty," and "the indomitable Irishry" to make one editorial point or another. Fair enough, but the all-purpose Yeats is not confined to things Irish but lends itself nicely to the apocalyptic, garbled as needed. There would be white space indeed in the leader pages without all the things falling apart, slouchings toward Bethlehem, cold eyes being cast and peace processes dropping slowly. In my growing collection of favours, pride of place goes to a line from a baseball feature in *The New Yorker*: "The centerfielder cannot hold."

## Comedians fear loss of breeding ground

The future of comedy is being jeopardised, says Milly Jenkins

At the opening of the Edinburgh Television Festival on Friday, two of Britain's most successful sitcom writers, Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran, will give a speech accusing broadcasting executives of failing to nurture and support comedy talent. The creators of *Birds of a Feather*, *Good Night, Sweetheart* and *Shine On Harvey Moon* say that the BBC and ITV are stifling talent by depriving writers and producers of money and creative control. But while they voice their concerns about the state of television comedy, many of their colleagues in the audience, and those appearing at the arts festival, will also be worrying about the future of radio comedy, long recognised as a training ground for new talent and the origin of some of television's top comedy shows.

One radio show, in particular, has produced some of Britain's best comedians — Radio 4's *Weekending*, the Friday night satirical sketch show. There is no such thing as a College of Comedy, but the nearest thing to it is an apprenticeship on *Weekending*. Griff Rhys Jones, David Jason, Tracy Ullman and more recently David Baddiel, Armando Iannucci and Harry Hill are just some of the talents that have been discovered and nurtured since its birth in 1970. But the longest-running comedy show in radio history is to be scrapped in April's Radio 4 reshuffle, leaving many ex-*Weekenders* wondering where future comedians will get their first break.

*Weekending* is one of the few comedy programmes with an open-door policy. Anyone can go along to the rowdy Wednesday lunchtime meetings, at Broadcasting House, to pitch ideas for sketches or one-liners. Others fax their contributions. The producers will consider anyone and although the financial rewards are not great — about £12 a joke and £25 a sketch — for many it is a first step.

David Baddiel, in Edinburgh this week with his *Too Much Information Tour*, started going to the meetings soon after leaving Cambridge. "They let anyone come in off the street, so it was always a bit of a soup kitchen," he says. "But I remember being very excited when I got my first half-minute sketch on and heard my name in the long list of credits at the end."

Baddiel's career path is in some ways a classic one — from the Footlights at Cambridge to the BBC's Light Entertainment Department. But he says, although *Weekending* is an entry point for comedians of all genres, its force is in training writers with a nose for news and scathing satire. Writing partners Mark Burton and John O'Farrell sharpened their wits on the show, before graduating to *Spitting Image* and currently *Have I Got News For You*. "It was a great springboard," says Burton, who has just written a new sitcom, *The Peter Principle*. "The open-door policy gave you your first contacts and your first experience of being in the BBC and working with other people."



Harry Hill was one of the talents discovered and nurtured on the BBC's *Weekending*

Guy Jenkin says: "It taught us the discipline of writing about news stories." Jenkin met his partner Andrew Hamilton on the show in the late Seventies. They went on to create *Drop the Dead Donkey*, *Weekending* runs for 44 weeks and having to come up with half an hour of material every week was useful training.

Everyone talks with fondness about the show, although some agree that it is probably time, as Mark Burton says, "for it to go to the great sketch in the sky". In the early days, its lampooning of politicians seemed risqué, even when *Nationwide* presenter Michael Barrett introduced each

sketch. But now that satire has become more mainstream, and satirists such as Rory Bremner, Mark Thomas and Chris Morris more savages, many think it has lost its edge. One problem was that it never had a live audience. "It was never as tough a test for writers as it might have been," says Bill Dacre, a previous producer. "We never knew if people thought it was funny." And while it was a great opportunity for new writers, their inexperience sometimes showed. "It could be a bit like the blind leading the blind." The BBC is asking in-house and independent producers to come up with a new format for the same Friday night show.

TO ADVERTISE CALL  
0171 481 4481

## MEDIA, SALES & MARKETING

FAX:  
0171 762 7826

### IMMEDIATE SALES POSITIONS - £50K OTE

THE COMPANY: L.D.E.A. is a leading global financial consultancy, specialising in the analysis of foreign exchange and money markets. Our clients are major international financial institutions and central banks. Our sales staff service a client base from offices in London, New York, Hong Kong, Singapore and Tokyo.

THE POSITIONS: L.D.E.A.'s rapid expansion over the past year enables us to offer positions at our London office. We are currently seeking high-calibre graduates with excellent sales skills and the self-motivation, energy and enthusiasm to generate new revenue bases.

THE CANDIDATES: Should be between 25 and 35 years of age, with at least two years of proven sales experience. A knowledge of economic/financial markets as well as language skills is a definite advantage.

THE PACKAGE: Basic + Commission

APPLY: In writing or by fax to Mr S. Berk, L.D.E.A., Lincoln House, 296 High Holborn, London WC1V 7JH. Fax 0171 430 3777. Please quote Ref.SB/1.

### RUSSIAN SPEAKING TRAINEE RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

Excellent career opportunity, working for the foremost leading division of an international leading firm. Best training in the industry. Please contact: Tel: 0111 342 1235. Contact: Peter Widdowson or Julie Head on 0111 342 1235. Fax: 0111 342 1235.

### CARTOONING FOR PROFIT

Make money from your cartooning and illustration skills. Study from home for a new career or profitable second income. For a free prospectus, call: 0800 371 500.

### How To Write For Children

This free Newsletter from the Morris College of Journalism shows you exactly how! 0800 371 500

### How To Make Money With Your Camera

This free Newsletter gives you 52 best selling photo ideas. One for every week of the year. Free phone: 0800 371 500

### How To Make \$25,000 A Year With Your Home Computer

This free Information Kit shows you exactly how! Obtain your copy today: 0800 371 500

### How To Make \$20,000 p.a. as a Travel Writer

This free Newsletter shows you exactly how to pay for all your travel and make money! 0800 371 500

### How To Make \$20,000 p.a. Freelance Writing

This free Newsletter shows you exactly how. Obtain your free copy now! 0800 371 500 +44 (0)1228 850 008 MORRIS COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM

### RAY OIL TOOL LTD

Is a world leader in the manufacture of solid casing components and tool joint equipment.

As a result of continuous growth we have an immediate vacancy within our Aberdeen facility for a:

SALES ENGINEER

The person required to promote our range of products in the North Sea area must have experience within the industry.

CV to: The Office Administrator Ray Oil Tool Co Ltd

Unit 4B, Housheims Avenue, North End, Aberdeen AB21 0GP

### MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Expanding city based consultancy, specialising in Org. Dev. looking to fill a number of positions at Consultancy level. Applicants should be MBA qualified with experience in Commerce. Financial background and proven experience in economic analysis necessary. Behavioural change consulting experience highly regarded. Please fax curriculum vitae to 0171 814 7377

### Sales Support Executives

Career opportunities for high achievers of graduate calibre with market leader in Business Planning Software

#### First Year OTE £30,000

Established as a UK leader and expanding internationally, Adatum Software is now strengthening its sales support team in a new location (between Chiswick and Heathrow) and seeking self-motivated, sales driven individuals to contribute to further growth. Initial product training will be provided in Bristol.

#### The Role

- Generating quality sales leads; identifying/controlling targets and evaluating enquiries
- Arranging and tracking sales demonstrations; briefing sales consultants; closing deals
- Pre and post sales support; fielding with prospects/clients at initial level
- Key account management and development

#### The Person

- Qualified in Business, Commerce or Accounting; familiar with management accounting principles
- At least 1 year's successful selling/account development experience
- Outstanding telephone and relationship building skills
- PC/Windows knowledge and interest in business software applications
- Good communication and drive

If you are ready for this challenge, please write with CV, details of current earnings and telephone number to: Alison Byrnes, Adatum Software, 13 Great George Street, Bristol BS1 5NL.

#### West London

### MARKETING SUCCESS

SOUTH WEST LONDON

£40-£55,000 PACKAGE

elsy uk, previously Olivetti UK, employs 1,000 staff in the UK with an annual turnover of over £150 million and offers its corporate clients an impressive range of value added technology solutions and services. As an integral role within the business, and in further extending elsy's services and network business presence, a dynamic Services Marketing Manager is required. This challenging role includes responsibility for all aspects of the marketing of elsy's field services, desk top management and networking offers.

The successful candidate will be based in our South West London offices reporting directly to the Director of Marketing and Development and will work in close liaison with the sales and operational divisions.

If you believe your commercial experience may qualify you and you wish to find out more about this outstanding opportunity, please contact our retained consultant David Bruster and his elsy team on: 01737 778282 (office hours) or 01306 713316 (even/weekends). Alternatively post, fax or email your CV to them at: Reflex Computer Recruitment, Kingsgate House, High Street, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1SE. Fax: 01737-778950 Email: elsy@reflexgroup.co.uk Web Site: http://www.reflexgroup.co.uk

listen think solve

elsy is an equal opportunities employer

### STOP! Don't pass this by.

We pay basic + commission

You are a professional person or a graduate and perhaps you think that selling advertising space is "beneath" you. I thought that for 11 years while waiting for a "proper" job. When I arrived at my personal crossroads I made the difficult decision to try something new. In my first year I earned 47%. For the last 3 years I've earned "in excess" of 150%. I go home at 5.30 and never work at weekends. My kids go to private school. I have two luxury cars and a house in France. I'd like a mistress in Mayfair, but... Selling advertising space is not beneath me at all and it could be good for you. Call me, Philip Armstrong, personally on 0171 282 4632.

London based Company

### ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

BOX No. ....

c/o THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS  
P.O. BOX 3553, VIRGINIA ST,  
LONDON, E1 9GA

### HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

### Sub-editor

Higher education has expanded - and so has the Times Higher Education Supplement. Consequently we need an experienced full or part time sub-editor to join a team handling everything from higher education funding to Arthur C. Clarke.

The work is varied with plenty of opportunity for design and layout. Accuracy and attention to detail essential. Quark experience preferred.

Applications accompanied by a comprehensive CV, should be addressed to The Editor, The Times Higher Education Supplement, Adelphi House, 66-68 East Smithfield, London E1 9XY.

Closing date for applications: August 29, 1997

Decision Drivers, Inc.  
A Gartner Group Company



# The art of spinning



Peter Mandelson, left, and John Prescott: Labour is starting to find that the co-ordination of messages (to say nothing of big egos) is just that little bit harder in government

**S**o, John "The Shark" Prescott and Peter "The Crab" Mandelson cannot agree what to say about those terrible German Millennium Dome builders. The Deputy Prime Minister says the British construction industry should hang its head in shame. The Minister without Portfolio says the Brits have done bloody well out of the (his) Millennium Project, and Mr Prescott, who is DPM in name only, can go whistle. Enter the Chinese maven crab, siding in on cue to complete a classic Whinell face.

I hesitate to say this, but it looks as if new Labour is starting to find that the co-ordination of messages (to say nothing of big egos) is just that little bit harder in government than in opposition. It is one thing to sit in some House of Commons garret what insult to hurt at which Cabinet minister for the next television bulletin. It is quite another — when the proverbial you-know-what hits the fan — to square Downing Street, or the relevant ministers, or the private offices, or the press offices, in time for a World At One bid in 20 minutes time, with the radio car on its way. Particularly when the ministers concerned dislike each other.

How piquant that such a cock-up should involve the Master of Spin himself, Mr Mandelson, who says that "information control" was at the heart of his election strategy, and is supposed to be at the heart of his strategy for government.

It may be a minor incident — compared with the Tory Cabinet's disagreements over Europe, this is a minor league — but it should start to dispel the myth of the infallibility of new Labour's spin-doctor.

According to the energetic

**New Labour's spin-doctoring skills will face their true test when the political honeymoon ends and Tony Blair comes under fire, says Charles Lewington**

BBC correspondent Nicholas Jones, this is a machine that can move mountains, shift thousands of votes overnight, and exercise such influence over news broadcasts that all other spin-doctors should go into immediate retirement.

In his account of the election, *Campaign 1997*, Jones claimed that Labour's news managers turned a near-certain Blair victory into a landslide owing to their ability to persuade journalists that the Conservatives were incompetent, arrogant, and split down the middle — as if they needed persuading.

Such is the BBC reporter's gushing admiration for Labour's news management skills that at one point he is forced to emphasise that he in no way intends to demean the part Tony Blair played in winning the election.

But Jones fails to draw any distinction between the challenges of opposition and those of government. It is a rather different art form which requires different skills.

Isn't this the voice of an embittered former Tory spin-doctor, envious of new Labour's news management skills, and looking for the first opportunity to stick the knife in?

Don't get me wrong. I am envious of the politicalisation of the Downing Street press machinery, the appointment of departmental political press spokesmen (and women) and the updating of the completely useless "Cable-net" computer system.

Michael Heseltine's EDCP Committee, which met daily to try to manage the news, was no large and unwieldy, I counted 25 people at one meeting in Hezza's room, sunk



Charles Lewington: envious of news management skills

deep into his comfortable sofa. We couldn't discuss political issues, with civil servants present, and it was difficult to discuss government matters without civil servants. So we ended up with the worst of both worlds.

The Cable-net system was derided by civil servants and ministers alike. Steven Norris used to list every trivial ministerial engagement on it — short of dinner dates with a girlfriend — to give the impression that he was the busiest minister in government.

The failure of Conservative Central Office to exercise much, if any, control over the Government's information machinery was a source of huge frustration. But the reality is that because of the Conservative Government's

productive. The briefings were confused and often contradictory. Statements were made up on the hoof, and political journalists would often remark to me that "the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing".

Interestingly, in each of the three cases, new Labour had been caught indulging in hypocrisy on a grand scale: Harman using a grammar-school system which Labour was (then) committed to opposing; Blair pretending to be tough on unions in one breath, while conceding to their bottom-line demands in another; and new Labour asserting its conversion to Thatcherism by promising to sell off National Air Traffic Services, while assuring union leaders of the opposite in private.

The moral is that if you are caught speaking with forked tongue, you can't rely on your tongue to talk your way out of the problem. Since the election, new Labour has yet to come under political attack, partly because the press has respected the honeymoon, and

partly because of the grieving process in the Conservative Party. There have been skirmishes over the share portfolio of Lord Simon of Highbury, a new Labour business appointee, but nothing more substantial to test the defensive skills of the spin-masters.

The few minor alarms have been dealt with deftly. The break-up of Robin Cook's marriage was neat news management, although not every jilted wife will accept that one hour is a reasonable amount of time to decide whether to end a marriage. The saga of the Millennium Dome does not show that new Labour is "coming apart at the seams", as David

Willens rather ambitiously described the incident on Monday, but that news management in opposition is rather simpler than news management in government.

And only when things really start hotting up for the Prime Minister can we test whether new Labour's spin-doctoring skills are real or simply a well-spun myth.

● The author is a freelance journalist, and former Director of Communications for the Conservative Party

## THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### A fresh role for Gwyneth

CHERIE BLAIR, who elegantly slipped into the role of guest editor at *Prima* magazine last year, appears to have started a trend. US *Marie Claire* is to have Gwyneth Paltrow as editor of its Christmas edition.

According to the article, a helpline for lawyers revealed "alarming levels of cocaine and heroin addiction among solicitors and barristers". No statistics were offered. Could this be because, of 44 lawyers who have called the helpline since May, only two calls were drug-related? By chance the *Standard* was also running a special feature on the druggy lawyers in the TV drama *This Life*.



Gwyneth Paltrow

"We thought she might be too upset but she came right in and chaired the features meetings," said an impressed *Marie Claire* source. However, she denied the Cherie Blair precedent. "Everybody knows it was Glenda Bailey who invented this when she got her Christmas edition of *Marie Claire* UK edited by Joan Collins."

### Wrong numbers

AS Camelot directors lick their wounds over the loss of their £600,000 court case, news reaches *The Listener* that the strain might be getting to the company's staff. After every draw Camelot minions immediately fax the Press Association to confirm the winning numbers. However, of late they have been getting the numbers wrong. "It is incredible that they, of all people, could get it wrong. But they do —

frequently," an insider at PA said. "To make it worse, one night one of us thought we had won the jackpot."

### Quiet days

AUGUST is the cruellest month for newscasters desperate to find something to fill the news pages. Few come more inventive than the *Evening Standard*, which recently carried a splash headline "Warning on Addict Lawyers".

According to the article, a helpline for lawyers revealed "alarming levels of cocaine and heroin addiction among solicitors and barristers". No statistics were offered. Could this be because, of 44 lawyers who have called the helpline since May, only two calls were drug-related? By chance the *Standard* was also running a special feature on the druggy lawyers in the TV drama *This Life*.

### Islington man

REGULAR fans of Talk Radio will know that Danny Baker's Saturday football show is sponsored by the *News of the World*. Recently Danny Kelly, Baker's co-host, thought he would try his hand at attracting a sponsor. On air he joked that he was sponsored by the *Islington Gazette*. Amazingly the *Gazette* took the bait.



Danny Baker

"The paper now sponsors Danny Kelly for £1 a show," said a Talk Radio spokeswoman proudly. "It gets mentioned four times each week, which we think is jolly good value."

## Style is of the essence

**E**ighteen of us were seated at an alfresco lunch in the depths of rural Gascony two weeks ago, and I hadn't thought of *Wapping* for at least three days. Then my neighbour turned and subjected me to a public trial: *The Times* had described somebody as an "author and writer". What had I to say about that?

The *foie gras* melted as I mounted an unconvincing defence and, with hindsight, I wish that I had had to hand the 291-page booklet published at *The Times* last week and given to every member of the staff. The second edition of the 1995 version of *The Times Style Guide* provides writers and sub-editors with a quick reference to contentious points of grammar and spelling and determines how *The Times* is written. It would have demonstrated to my Wykehamist inquisitor, a prominent London barrister, how hard *The Times* and other newspapers try to maintain standards of correct English usage as they edit at high speed hundreds of thousands of words a day.

The responsibility for maintaining standards at *The Times* throughout the 40 to 60 pages of the daily paper belongs to Tim Austin, the chief revise editor. He starts work at 2.30pm, reads a proof of every page, checks reports and features for accuracy and tone, corrects errors of style and grammar, and works until past midnight.

Until the Nineties, the main job of a revise editor was checking that reports conformed to the newspaper's style. One of the main jobs

### PAPER ROUND

Brian MacArthur



now is correcting grammar — which is also the main area of complaint in letters from readers to the Editor. "Many skilled journalists who left school in the Eighties and Nineties have simply not been taught grammar; they have never heard of the unrelated participle," says Austin.

Style matters, because it defines a newspaper's character. I still blush at my worst howler on *The Times*, when I reported a conference at "Christ Church College, Oxford". As our style book warns (sorry, gives warning), it is, of course, Christ Church. I was rebuked by a distinguished public school headmaster, who added wistfully that he had imagined that even if I did not know the correct title, the sub-editors would have put me right.

I spent a lot of time in those days with headmasters. They were always quick to detect lapses of style or grammar — another of mine was the use of "all-of" instead of all, which now appears daily in one newspaper or another. So I received an early lesson in how upset readers can become when journalists do not

know the basic rules of grammar or are ignorant of styles of title in the Armed Forces, the Churches or the Courts, especially if they are soldiers, clergymen or lawyers — so upset that they may cancel their subscriptions.

The style book makes fascinating reading. Take the world's most famous woman. She is Diana, Princess of Wales, at first mention, subsequently the Princess (with a capital, as she still remains a member of the Royal Family) and never Princess Diana or — even worse — Princess Di (except in reported speech). The Duchess of

York, however, has capitals at first mention but is demoted subsequently to the duchess (lower case) because she is no longer a member of the Royal Family (always upper case). Until only recently *The Times* tried to avoid the use of capital letters. It was prime minister, not Prime Minister. Capitals are "now back in fashion: 'The proper names of people and places, formal titles or titles of important offices, and the names of well-known and substantial institutions, all require capitals.'"

Among the clichés that are to be resisted strongly are: backlash, brainchild, consensus, dramatic, legendary, mega, prestigious, shambles and traumatic. Joining hyphens are rarely needed when adverbs are used to qualify adjectives. So it is heavily pregnant or colourfully decorated — unless the compound looks better with the hyphen, in which case it can be well-founded or ill-educated.

There is guidance on participles, particularly when they are unrelated. "Judging by the lingering camera shots, Jack's luck was not about to change" is wrong — judging requires a following noun or pronoun in agreement: "Judging by the lingering camera shots, I saw that Jack's luck..."

At this newspaper, the week ends on Saturday night: crash, shock and slam are to be avoided in headlines but bid (for attempt), crisis, hit (adversely affect) and row (clash or dispute) are OK (not okay) if they are not overworked; farther is applied only to distance; emphasise is preferred to stress; and almost every surname (except for convicted offenders, the dead and cases where common usage omits a title, mostly in arts and sport) should be granted the courtesy of a title, with Ms fully acceptable.

Maintaining style is obviously important, but it should not be a straitjacket and should not destroy the style of the best writers and columnists. Sub-editors do not tamper with the prose of Bernard Levin, Simon Jenkins or Matthew Parris or, of course, the Editor (always caps).

## PASSPORT TO EUROPE



- Save at least 25% at 178 top hotels
- £35 gourmet lunch voucher offer
- Win a lunch for two in Paris

Save at least 25 per cent on a luxurious short break for two at many of the best hotels in Europe with our Passport to Europe offer, in association with Relais and Châteaux and MasterCard. The offer, valid for unlimited stays between September 22, 1997 and April 9, 1998, gives you a choice of 178 hotels in 16 countries. Passport to Europe offers an inclusive package for two people for one night at a price which includes your stay, dinner and breakfast plus service charges and VAT.

● Full details of Passport to Europe appeared in Saturday's Weekend section. For a copy call 0171-481 3355 during office hours. For details of Leisure Direction's exclusive travel offers call 0181-324 4011.

### WIN LE LUNCH IN PARIS

For your chance to win a £35 gourmet lunch (there are eight restaurants in Paris, all with two Michelin stars, to choose from) call our competition hotline on 0891 300 370 (ex UK +44 990 100 373), before midnight tonight, with your answer to this question:

**In how many countries are there restaurants offering Le Lunch?**

The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received. Normal TNL competition rules apply. 0891 Calls cost 50p per minute.



### HOW TO APPLY FOR YOUR PASSPORT TO EUROPE PACK

To get your *Times/Relais & Châteaux Passport to Europe* Pack simply collect four tokens from *The Times*. Seven will be printed up to and including Saturday August 23, 1997. Then complete this coupon and send it to:

THE TIMES  
RELAYS & CHATEAUX  
TOKEN 4

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime tel \_\_\_\_\_

The *Times/Relais & Châteaux* offer, Leisure Direction, Image House, Station Road, London N17 9LR, to arrive no later than September 30, 1997. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

IT WOULD HELP US IF YOU ANSWERED THESE QUESTIONS:  
Which of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)  
☐ 16-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies each week)?

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (2 copies or less)?

Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organizations carefully selected by *The Times*, please tick ☐







# THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION  
**2**  
TODAY



**BUSINESS**  
B&Q hammers home the DIY message  
**PAGE 27**



**ARTS**  
The best li'l orchestra in Texas heads for the Proms  
**PAGES 30-32**



**SPORT**  
Lloyd stands in judgment on England's ills  
**PAGES 37-44**

**TELEVISION AND RADIO**  
**PAGES 42, 43**

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 20 1997

## US and German rates pause soothes foreign exchanges



Greenspan: convincing case

By GRAHAM SHARJEANT  
FINANCIAL EDITOR

LINGERING fears of another quick bout of currency instability on the foreign exchanges were soothed yesterday when Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, and Hans Tietmeyer, President of the Bundesbank, convinced colleagues yet again that interest rates should not be changed.

Shares bounced back on London and continued to recover in New York. Weekend worries about asset prices were again banished to the sidelines.

In London, the FTSE 100 index of blue chips gained 79.2 points or 1.7 per cent to 4,914.2, retrieving almost half the losses of Friday and Monday. On the Continent, the Eurotrak 100 index gained 1.9 per cent.

Second-line UK stocks, which missed most of this year's boom but also the weekend upsurge, again missed out on the euphoria, edging up 0.5 per cent. The FTSE 250 index gained 17.2 points to 4,680.8.

In New York, a volatile Dow Jones industrial average was up 63 points at midday to 7,866, retrieving

two thirds of Friday's losses in this week's two trading days.

In Hong Kong, which was closed on Monday, prices fell sharply, partly in response to a rise in interbank interest rates to resist an attack on the Hong Kong dollar. The Hang Seng index lost 3.8 per cent, or 619.62 points, to close at 15,477.26. The Manila stock exchange was closed by monsoon floods.

Speculation had mounted last week that the Bundesbank might allow its repo rate, at which it gives credit to banks, to rise above the 3 per cent maintained for the past

year. This became less likely as a series of interviews by members of the Bundesbank Council expressing their worries over the falling mark managed to talk it up. On Monday, another council member sought to prepare markets for a further standstill by saying that any rise in interest rates would damage Germany's domestic economy, a view echoed yesterday by OECD, the Paris-based agency, which said the mark's fall should last.

The dollar climbed back further against the mark on the foreign exchanges, again attaining DM1.84.

Sterling made a more modest gain of 1.4 pence to DM2.9487, but edged down against the dollar. The sterling index rose from 102.3 to 102.6 on the day.

Few would have contemplated a change in the Fed's stance this month were it not for the fears stirred on Friday. Although much-quoted official statistics of productivity growth remain low, the economy continues to expand with no sign of rising inflation or wage growth. The Fed has not changed rates since March and will not meet again until September 30.

### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	4914.2 (+79.2)
FTSE All Share	2317.23 (+30.46)
Nikkei	18661.00 (+80.10)
New York	7868.54 (+63.18)
Dow Jones	821.58 (+9.08)
S&P Composite	

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.75% (5.75%)
Long Bond	6.87% (6.87%)
Yield	6.61% (6.62%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-mth Interbank	7.75% (7.75%)
Libor long	11.50% (11.50%)
Future (Sep)	11.50% (11.50%)

STERLING	
New York	1.8055 (1.8041)
London	
\$	1.8082 (1.8109)
DM	2.9486 (2.9558)
FF	6.0256 (6.0303)
SP	2.4320 (2.4330)
Yen	189.34 (189.58)
S index	102.6 (102.3)

DOLLAR	
London	
DM	1.8410 (1.8547)
FF	6.1950 (6.1835)
SP	1.5150 (1.5178)
Yen	118.30 (118.07)
S index	106.1 (106.3)

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brut 15-day (Nov)	\$19.20 (\$19.00)

GOLD	
London close	\$322.85 (\$322.85)

\* denotes midday trading price

## US cosmetics queen eyes Laura Ashley

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

AS ANN IVERSON, Laura Ashley chief executive, insisted last night that she has no intention of resigning, another feisty American admitted she was considering a bid for the company.

Georgette Mosbacher, a successful cosmetics entrepreneur who tried to buy Laura Ashley two years ago, said: "I still very much like the company." Asked whether she might make an offer, she said: "It is possible."

Yesterday the company revealed worse than expected losses and plans to close two of its factories in Wales. The £1 million-a-year Mrs Iverson acknowledged that the company will make no profit this year, and she is being forced to abandon expansion plans in the United States. "I have not considered leaving and have the full support of the board and major shareholders," she said. "Pressure is to be expected. We need to get it right."

With the company's fortunes at such a low ebb, there is some speculation that a bidder could come forward and Georgette Mosbacher is a favourite contender. The wife of Bob Mosbacher, former US Commerce Secretary, she bought and successfully

turned round the La Prairie cosmetics company. Her interest in Laura Ashley stems from a belief that she could effect a similar turnaround there and two years ago she tried to persuade Sir Bernard Ashley to sell his shares to her.

Although he refused then, she has kept a careful watch on the company ever since. The latest news is likely to persuade her to renew her takeover efforts, although last night she said she had yet to make another approach.

Laura Ashley, one of the largest employers in rural Wales, will make up to 190 workers redundant with the closure of two of its garment factories in Carmarthen and Machynlleth. The work will be transferred to lower-cost factories abroad.

News of the closures caused a storm of local protest. Llywelyn Iwan, Liberal Democrat MP for Machynlleth, said he would be seeking a meeting with Mrs Iverson. "I shall be asking the chief executive if Montgomeryshire people are paying the price for the company's mistakes on overstocking," he said.

The company's four other Welsh factories, employing 577 staff, remain under re-

view, Mrs Iverson said. Sir Bernard, the co-founder, owner of a third of the stock and a non-executive director, has protected the factories in the past but went along with the board decision on closures.

The Welsh shutdowns will cost the company £1 million, contributing, along with a further £900,000 to cover overstocking, to a first-half pre-tax loss of £4.5 million. Although it expects to see a profit in the second half, the result for the whole year will be "approximately breakeven". Second-half earnings will be hit by the return to full-price sales after weeks of heavy discounting.

Mrs Iverson said that the company will open five stores in the US in the second half, as expected, but will open no stores there next year. It had expected to add 10 stores to its US chain in 1998. Instead it will spend £2 million on a US advertising campaign.

Group like-for-like sales in the first half were up 5 per cent. In the UK, they were 11 per cent ahead, in North America up 4 per cent, and on mainland Europe they fell 9 per cent. The gross margin fell from 48.4 to 40.5 per cent.

Commentary, page 25



Greg Hutchings, chairman of Tomkins, still retains share options in the company valued at £1.7 million

## Hutchings pay package tops £2m

By JASON NISSE

GREG HUTCHINGS, chairman of Tomkins, the bread, guns and bicycles group, picked up £2.09 million in pay, bonus and exercised share options last year.

Mr Hutchings received a 21 per cent increase in his salary package to £1.36 million, the first increase since 1993. In addition he cashed in share

options creating a profit of £750,000 and retains share options, valued in the group's accounts at £1.7 million.

Ian Duncan, finance director, was awarded a 48 per cent increase in pay and bonus to £912,000. Bob Muddimer, deputy chairman, nearly doubled his pay package to £605,000.

The packages are determined by the remuneration committee — which includes

Charles Gates, who is paid a £250,000 (£155,000) a year consultancy by Tomkins.

Another company unloved by the City, Matthew Clark, revealed 50 per cent pay rises for its three senior directors. The troubled cider maker increased the basic pay of Peter Aikens, chief executive, from £151,000 to £230,000 while two other directors, Hugh Etheridge and Peter

Huntley, saw their salaries rise from £87,000 to £130,000. None of them received bonus payments, which meant their total packages fell.

The salary increases were agreed in May last year, four months before the company revealed that it was facing problems caused by the competition from alcopops.

City Diary, page 27

## Exchange was 'ready to censure Anite'

A SECOND Stock Exchange inquiry into Anite, the computer networks group, has found that the former market high-flyer withheld important information about a misleading profits announcement (Paul Durman writes).

It is understood that the exchange would have been ready to publicly censure Anite were it not for the departures of Roger Holland, Jon Richards and Jeff Harrison — respectively its former chairman, chief executive and finance director.

Mr Holland has taken control of Case Technology, previously an Anite loss-maker, and is a Tomkins director.

## Granada buyout at knock-down price

By DOMINIC WALSH

GRANADA, the media and leisure combine, is poised to sell its consumer services division to a management buyout team backed by venture capital.

A confidential memorandum, circulated to senior executives, suggests the deal will be completed in September. Analysts believe that the business, built up in the 1980s through a string of acquisitions totalling more than £200 million, could fetch no more than £80 million.

Granada's interim results in June were hit by a £167 million goodwill writedown against the value of the business, which made a profit in the half year of £4.7 million. It provides emergency services and has maintenance contracts with companies such as British Aerospace. The disposal is the latest in a series of non-

core asset disposals in the wake of Granada's acquisition of the Forte hotel and catering empire. So far it has recouped more than £1.3 billion of the £3.9 billion purchase price.

It is understood that negotiations are continuing over a £350 million-plus deal to sell Grovenor House Hotel, Forte's flagship in London's Park Lane. The hotel formed part of the Exclusive Hotels package put up for sale last year, but was taken off the market six months ago.

The prospective purchaser is a consortium of Middle Eastern investors linked to the kingdom of Qatar's ruling Althani family.

A deal whereby Ritz Carlton, the US hotel group, would have managed the property appears to have fallen through.

## Long-distance operators in line for US phone win

By ERIC REGULY

AMERICAN regulators were expected last night to hand a victory to the long-distance phone companies by rejecting a regional phone company bid to compete in their markets.

The ruling is crucial to the fortunes of MCI, the long-distance operator that is to be bought by British Telecom in the autumn for about £14 billion. MCI has been complaining since last year that the regional phone companies are unfairly resisting its efforts to compete in the local markets, an area in which it wants to expand.

MCI's mounting losses in the local market triggered a surprise profits warning last month that sent BT's share price plummeting.

The Federal Communications Commission, the top

telecoms regulator, was expected to reject an application from Ameritech, the regional phone company, to enter the \$80 billion (£50 billion) long-distance market because it has not opened up its own markets sufficiently to new competitors, including MCI and AT&T. The 1996 Telecommunications Act gave local and regional operators the right to offer long-distance service as long as the long-distance operators were free to compete in their own markets.

Bert Roberts, MCI's chairman, accuses Ameritech of using blocking techniques to ensure its local monopolies remain intact. He said Ameritech and the other regional operators still control 99 per cent of their markets in spite of a \$2 billion spend by MCI to

build local infrastructure. In June, the FCC rejected a bid by SBC Communications regional phone company to offer long-distance service because it failed to meet requirements.

BT wants to reduce the price it is paying for MCI because its losses in the local market will be higher than expected. However, MCI is indicating there is no room to renegotiate. BT fears that institutions will demand the resignations of Sir Iain Vallance, chairman, and Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive, if the price is unchanged.

If the merger is completed, BT probably will attempt to reduce MCI's losses by cutting local market investment. BT's strategy will be unveiled this month when it completes a review of the merger.

## Break for the Border breaks from music

By DOMINIC WALSH

BREAK FOR THE BORDER, the themed restaurant operator, has put a "for sale" sign over its music and theatre interests, comprising the Shepherd's Bush Empire and Drifton Academy in London, Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, and the Birmingham Empire.

The group announced yesterday that Ian Howard, group chief executive and one of the company's founders, was stepping down to pursue a buyout of the majority of the division although further offers are

still being canvassed. Mr Howard, who will remain a non-executive director, has already submitted an indicative offer for the three music venues but is not interested in the Gaiety Theatre. Analysts estimate that the business as a whole could fetch between £7 million and £10 million.

Roger Beaumont, who is stepping up from operations director to become group managing director, said the move would enable the company to focus on its most profitable restaurants. "These venues take up an inordinate amount of cash and I didn't

see how they fitted with our restaurants and bars," he said. "Too many companies try to chase too many rainbows. We should be concentrating on the core business."

The emphasis will be on developing Break for the Border, a Tex-Mex concept with two outlets in London and one in Dublin. The next is due to open in Leeds in January and further sites are in the pipeline.

Of the company's other units, Café de Seine in Dublin may also be expanded but assets such as the Grafton Plaza Hotel in Dublin are

unlikely to be retained in the long term. An offer has in fact already been received for Lawson Beaumont, the outside events business acquired for £1.8 million in 1995.

One analyst said that the decision to sell the music venues was long overdue. He said: "This company has shown a complete lack of strategy when it should have been concentrating on the core Break for the Border concept."

Break for the Border shares were unchanged at 49p yesterday, against a 12-month high of 68p.

**"We've fixed our mortgage payments until 2001. Have you?"**

Fact: Interest rates have risen twice in the last two months and could go higher...

To find out the BEST FIXED RATE available from Mortgage Intelligence, the UK's largest group of mortgage brokers, call FREE anytime on:

**0500-10-10-33**

**MORTGAGE INTELLIGENCE**

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT REPAY YOUR MORTGAGE OR OVERLOOK SECURED ON IT

TUE 20/08/97



# Firms fear tax-linked leap in electricity prices

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BUSINESSES are facing big rises in electricity prices in what they fear is a move by the electricity industry to recoup the windfall tax and bolster margins ahead of a new regulatory price control.

Large customers report unprecedented price increases of up to 30 per cent on the generation part of their electricity bills in new contracts under negotiation.

Generation charges are unregulated and make up about half of a bill, while other

components — such as transmission and distribution — are regulated. Business and industrial customers spend about £1 million a factory or about £50,000 a retail outlet each year on electricity.

The price rises have important implications for the wholesale price of electricity and contradict forecasts from the electricity regulator that generation costs will fall by between 4 and 12 per cent in the wholesale market.

Bob Spears, of the Utility Buyers Forum, said: "These increases are unjustifiable. We are seeing rises far above RPI for which there should be no cause." Companies in the forum

believe that the electricity companies are cranking up prices to rake back some of the windfall tax.

Utility companies gave warning ahead of the £5.2 billion windfall tax that it would lead to increased prices. However, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, said that the companies would be able to absorb the tax. Domestic customers are — until the next price reviews — protected from price jumps by regulation, but business is not.

Don McGarrigle, an energy adviser who works for several large companies, said: "The rises are staggering. With increases between 10 and 20 per cent, there is a strong belief that they

are trying to pass on the windfall tax and guarding against the supply price review."

A spokeswoman for the Electricity Association, the trade body, said that it had no details on the current round of contract talks, which were private between suppliers and customers.

Stephen Littlechild, the industry watchdog, will today set out the last discussion paper in the supply price review, which — he intends — will cut domestic electricity prices by £30 a year. Plans unveiled so far have increased regional electricity companies, some of which are threatening to go to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

## Virgin and Nomura consider rail sales

By FRASER NELSON

RICHARD BRANSON and Nomura Bank are set to become two of the last beneficiaries of the privatisation of British Rail through selling interests in their respective train companies next year.

Virgin Trains, which runs Cross Country and West Coast Trains franchises, has appointed Merrill Lynch to look at a £250 million flotation about next spring. Nomura, the Japanese bank, is considering an £800 million sale of Angel Trains, which it bought from the Government for £672 million in a deal with the management three years ago.

Both deals would make millions for their owners, and will be held as further evidence that the Government short-changed the taxpayer through enthusiasm to release the system to the private sector.

The two companies are already working closely together in the run-up to the £2.25 billion refurbishment on Vir-

gin's two franchises, which was agreed by the Franchising Director, who in return gave Virgin a £1 billion subsidy over 15 years.

Virgin is currently using Angel's procurement specialists to advise it on the type of trains to replace its ageing fleet of 120 trains. On Friday week, it will invite the three rolling stock companies — including Angel — to bid for the £750 million contract, which it will put out to tender.

The relationship prompted speculation in the City that the two companies might agree a merger and follow the example set when Stagecoach bought the Porterbrook leasing company last year.

One analyst said: "The story of Virgin Trains over the next few years is one of a massive engineering project — one which will probably be the largest in the UK. Angel is basically a glorified rent collector, which is making an unbelievable amount of money from basically over-charging the rail companies. It would make a lot of sense for the two to get together — and Virgin has done stranger things than that in the past."

Will Whitehorn, managing director of Virgin Trains said a flotation was "more likely than not".

Angel Trains, the largest of the three leasing companies, last year made a profit of £131.5 million on sales of £291.3 million.

It has a complicated ownership structure that obscures the directors' interests. John Prideaux, the former head of InterCity and Angel's non-executive chairman, owns the majority of the 5 per cent share between management and staff. This would give him a £40 million holding, and if the £800 million float goes ahead, a £7 million profit.

Commentary, page 25  
Tempos, page 26

## NHS staff backed on pensions mis-selling

By CAROLINE MERRELL  
AND ANNE ASHWORTH

ALAN MILBURN, the Health Minister, is urging insurance companies involved in the pensions mis-selling scandal to speed up the reinstatement process. Mr Milburn said that National Health Service workers were the biggest category of employees affected by the scandal, in which life insurance salesmen encouraged thousands of people to give up employers' pension plans in favour of less beneficial personal pensions.

Mr Milburn believes that up to 30,000 NHS staff may be affected, yet only 200 staff have so far been reinstated. He has asked Alec Cowan, the NHS pensions agency chief executive, to take all action possible on behalf of employees. However, Mr Milburn said: "The onus clearly lies with the industry to speed things up."

Earlier this month, Prudential, the UK's biggest insurance company, said that it had doubled its provision against pensions mis-selling to £450 million. Measures to speed up the review process contributed to the provision increase. The Prudential will be offering 50,000 mis-selling victims a scheme guaranteeing that they will be no worse off in retirement. Many of the Prudential's cases include public-sector workers. Legal & General also offers a similar scheme.

Early retirement and high levels of redundancies among older workers are fuelling the pension crisis, according to an organisation campaigning for the rights of the over-50s.

The Carnegie Third Age Programme has urged the Government to encourage older people to stay in employment and to demonstrate to companies the benefits of a mixed-age workforce. Third Age argues that the exclusion of over-50s from employment is reducing the fund for state pensions and increasing the burden on taxpayers. There are 2.8 million over-50s who are registered unemployed or "economically inactive".



Marlene Dietrich starring in *The Blue Angel*, featured in the Rohauer collection



Buster Keaton playing the starring role in *The General*



Olivier: *Fire over England*



WC Fields in a typical pose

## Carlton acquires collection of classic early films

By ERIC REGULY

CARLTON Communications has acquired the Rohauer Film Collection, a library of classic movies that was almost bequeathed to two cats in the late 1980s.

The Rohauer collection comprises more than 600 films from cinema's early years, including works by Buster Keaton, Harold Lloyd and WC Fields. Keaton's *The General* is considered one of the funniest films ever made. Other titles in the collection include *The Phantom of the Opera* with Lon Chaney, *The Thief of Bagdad* with Douglas Fairbanks and Marlene Dietrich's *The Blue Angel*.

The portfolio also contains many films from the golden age of British cinema — Laurence Olivier's *Fire over England* and *Four Men in a Boat*, Michael Caine's first film, are among them.

Carlton would not reveal the purchase price, though it is known to be less than £10 million. Many of the films are rarely shown and some are faded and ripped, requiring extensive restoration. The collection will be offered to other broadcasters and will be featured on Carlton Films, the new digital terrestrial TV channel to be launched with Granada next year.

The Rohauer collection was assembled by Raymond Rohauer, the eccentric former film curator of New York's Gallery of Modern Art. He died in 1987 and left much of his wealth to Dusty and Satch, his two cats. The film collection was bequeathed and was put into a foundation, that later landed at Douris Corp, an American media company.

CTE, Carlton's programme distribution arm, bought the films' British rights in perpetuity from Douris. It also obtained their worldwide distribution rights, excluding North America, for eight years.

CTE's library now contains 8,000 hours of TV programmes, including more than 1,500 films. Earlier this year Carlton bought Rank's film library. It also owns the Romulus and Korda British film libraries.

## BA-American link 'merger from hell'

By JON ASHWORTH

THE proposed link-up between British Airways and American Airlines is a "merger from hell" that will lead to higher fares and falling standards, a group of visiting US congressmen heard yesterday.

Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin Atlantic, BA's arch-rival, said that the two airlines were far too big to get together, adding: "Fares will go up and the quality of service will go down..."

Bob Ayling, the BA chief executive, said he was "fairly confident" fares would not rise. Mr Ayling said: "Virgin wants to maintain its cosy position at Heathrow with

## Improving car margins help Perry Group

By JON ASHWORTH

PERRY GROUP, the accident repair and motor retailer, revealed a 19 per cent increase to £4.9 million in interim pre-tax profits yesterday, on the back of improving margins for new and second-hand cars (Mark Court writes).

Turnover at its Nationwide Crash Repair Centres rose 24 per cent to £26 million. Richard Allan, the chairman and chief executive, is aiming for an 8 per cent net margin from the crash repair business, which is growing rapidly. "We are going to look at expansion into Europe," he said.

An interim dividend of 3.45p will be paid on 1 December, up 6 per cent from 3.25p.

## Customers wasting money in accounts

By CAROLINE MERRELL

BANK and building society customers waste £130 million a year keeping their money in current accounts that do not pay interest, Abbey National has claimed.

Around a quarter of the UK's current account customers, a total of 61 million accounts, hold their cash in non-interest accounts, according to Abbey's annual banking survey.

Even those who do manage to earn interest on their current accounts are dissatisfied with the rates offered — 31 per cent (£25 million accounts) wanted higher interest.

In general, bank and build-

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Collapse of Hamlet puts 150 jobs at risk

ABOUT 150 jobs were under threat after Hamlet Group, the clothes importer, went into administration with debts of £40 million. Chris Hughes and Chris Barlow, joint administrators, of Coopers & Lybrand, said the company had collapsed because of "management problems" and because it had overstretched itself financially. Dealing in shares in Hamlet Group, based in Whitechapel, East London, were suspended last week at 22.45p, valuing the company at £6.7 million.

The administration order covers three companies: Hamlet Group, Hamlet International and Jeffrey Rogers (Imports). Hamlet Group trade names include Nougat, Dare to Bare and Barnaby. "We are actively completing a review of the business which is trading as normal," said Mr Hughes. "We have already had several expressions of interest for various parts of the group, and we will be looking to progress these interests to the best effect for creditors and shareholders."

### Kvaerner disappoints

SHARES in Kvaerner, the Anglo-Norwegian engineering and shipping group that took over Trafalgar House last year, fell 25 Norwegian crowns to 433 crowns yesterday after the group reported a rise in first-half operating profits from 520 million crowns to 690 million crowns (£56.1 million). Analysts who had expected 1.2 billion crowns of operating profit said the figures were extremely bad, adding that the pre-tax profit margin was less than 1 per cent. Kvaerner raised the target for disposals from 10 billion to 15 billion crowns. It said that the Cunard cruise line was still suffering losses.

### Ben Bailey to expand

BEN BAILEY, the Yorkshire housebuilder, intends to develop and expand its product range to take advantage of improved conditions in the housing market. Yesterday the company reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £462,000 from £116,000 in the six months to June 30. Earnings increased to 3.01p a share from 0.75p and the interim dividend, due on September 26, is doubled to 0.6p a share. The company said it sold 154 houses in the first half, up from 127, at an average price of £870,000, up from £80,000 in the first half of the previous year.

### Defence deal for GPT

GPT, the telecommunications group, has won a Ministry of Defence service contract worth more than £100 million, creating up to 100 jobs. The company's Strategic Communications Systems division, based in Coventry, will support part of the MoD's new UK fixed telephone system. It will be responsible for maintaining the RAE's secure integrated communications network known as Uniter. GPT will provide about 200 maintenance and operations staff across the country. The new jobs come after the announcement by GPT of an extra 400 jobs in June in Liverpool, Nottingham, Coventry and Poole.

### Ilion sales up by £23m

ILION, the computer distribution group previously known as Persona, raised pre-tax profits from £27 million to £44 million in the six months to end June, on sales up from £65 million to £88 million. In spite of the effects of the strong pound on sales and profits, the shares slipped 2½p to 388½p but remain near their all-time high of 407½p. The half-year dividend rises from 1.7p to 2.0p out of earnings up from 9.0p to 11.0p. The group says that it now distributes the world's top five networking products across six European countries.

### Bright outlook at Emess

EMESS, the international lighting group, lifted pre-tax profits to £2.8 million from £2.4 million in the six months to June, in spite of being hit by the strength of sterling. Operating profits in consumer lighting jumped 32 per cent, but those in the commercial division fell 11 per cent, as sales slid 4 per cent. Earnings per share rose to 0.8p from a restated 0.7p, but, as with last year, no interim dividend is being paid. The shares rose 4p to 21½p. Emess expects a gradual recovery in its commercial lighting business.

### Brandon Hire slips

BRANDON HIRE, the tool, catering equipment and furniture hire company, reported a modest decline in pre-tax profits to £895,000 (£901,000) in the six months to June 30, in spite of a rise in operating profits to £1.3 million from £1.1 million. Earnings were unchanged at 2.9p a share. The firm expects a substantially stronger second half as its recent sale of access equipment to Kestral Powered Access allows it to focus on the core tool hire business. The interim dividend, to be paid on October 17, has been lifted to 1.7p a share from 0.9p.

### Limit's underwriter stake

LIMIT, the largest corporate vehicle investing in the Lloyd's of London insurance market, is taking a stake in the tiny underwriter C1 de Rougemont. Alongside Riverside, a private investment group that is buying a 15 per cent stake, Limit is taking 10 per cent. Both have pledged to supply capital to de Rougemont's two syndicates, non-marine 732 and marine 112, on a long-term basis. Limit already controls the bigger Janson Green and Bankside underwriting agencies.

### Creighton's losses £3.3m

CREIGHTON'S NATURALLY, the troubled manufacturer of toiletries, soaps and fragrances, had a pre-tax loss of £3.3 million for the year to March 31, compared with a £470,000 profit in the previous 12 months. There was an operating loss of just under £3 million and a £399,000 writedown of an investment. Losses of 33.9p a share compared with earnings of 5.3p previously. The company, which paid no interim dividend, is also passing payment of a final dividend. In the previous year there was a total dividend of 3.2p.

## US shoe group likely to bid for Sears shops



David Spitz and the Nine West group aim to expand in shoe retailing in the UK

NINE WEST, the American shoe group that last week bought 60 department store concessions from Sears's British Shoe Corporation, is likely to emerge as a bidder for part of the high street retailing business that BSC is set to put out to tender.

David Spitz, chairman of Shoe Studio Group, the British arm of Nine West, yesterday said: "We will be very interested in seeing the tender document."

The American group would act alone, rather than with a partner in buying any of BSC, he said. If it were to buy any shops, it would replace them

with branches of its Bette, Nine West, Pied à Terre, Enzo Angiolini or CK chains.

Nine West, which is opening some of its own stores in the UK, has big ambitions to expand in Britain. Its purchase from BSC last week makes it the biggest department store shoe concession operator in Britain, with more than 150 outlets. Its remaining competitors are Carvela-Kurt Geiger and Bally. Mr Spitz said that he was not aware of any other possible acquisitions in the UK beyond BSC.

JP Morgan, the merchant bank, is drawing up a range of tender documents for BSC.

They will go out next month to companies that have shown interest in BSC's four chains — Dolcis, Cable & Co. Shoe City and Shoe Express — and its remaining department store concessions.

After seeing the response, David James, the company director brought in earlier this year to sort out BSC, is expected to make his recommendations to the Sears board next month or in October.

A number of other shoe companies are known to be interested in acquiring parts of BSC, but analysts believe that they will all be looking to buy at bargain prices.

Bank	Buyer	Bank	Seller
Australia	2.25	Bank	2.10
Austria	21.75	Bank	20.00
Belgium	33.51	Bank	56.95
Canada	2.50	Bank	2.175
Cyprus	0.30	Bank	0.055
Denmark	11.50	Bank	10.31
Finland	9.35	Bank	8.50
France	10.35	Bank	9.85
Germany	8.11	Bank	2.67
Greece	1.18	Bank	4.48
Hong Kong	12.00	Bank	12.00
Ireland	1.18	Bank	1.07
Italy	1.18	Bank	1.07
Japan	305.00	Bank	187.50
Netherlands	0.22	Bank	0.015
New Zealand	3.33	Bank	3.25
Norway	2.25	Bank	2.45
Portugal	311.00	Bank	288.00
Spain	8.26	Bank	7.50
Sweden	280.00	Bank	241.50
Switzerland	12.75	Bank	12.55
Turkey	22.00	Bank	25.00
USA	1.75	Bank	1.50

Notes for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to foreign cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



# Repeat pattern at Laura Ashley?



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Somewhere between the 1996 and 1997 Laura Ashley annual reports, Sir Bernard Ashley dropped his title as honorary life president. Whether this was down to oversight, discretion on his part or wishful thinking on the part of the company's executives, it was not an indication of the irascible Sir Bernard's lessening involvement.

Never mind what interest he may have in preserving the legacy of his late wife's designs, Sir Bernard has around 24 million Laura Ashley shares, and there are another 20 million in family trusts. That holding, totalling up to around 35 per cent, has ensured that he keeps a close watch on the company, and particularly its share price, and not always from a distance. When his status as a tax exile allows, Sir Bernard makes his presence felt at Laura Ashley headquarters, as he has been doing recently.

So when the board declares its unanimous support for the chief executive, as it did yesterday, along with a warning of half-year losses of £4.5 million, Ann Iverson would be well advised not to take the sentiment too seriously. Sir Bernard was the decisive influence behind the appointment and then the departure of her last two predecessors, one of them another American with an impressive line in marketing jargon that somehow failed to translate to the bottom line.

Why a high-flying Goldman Sachs partner, John Thornton, would bother himself with taking on the chairmanship of a company in the LA league would be inexplicable, were it not for the fact that he was a trusted confidant of Sir Bernard.

That relationship must now be feeling the stress, since Sir Bernard's shares are now priced at just 55p. It is worth recalling that they were priced at 135p when the company floated in 1985 and Sir Bernard clearly believes that they should be a great deal higher than that.

This is the implication of a deal he entered into with a former LA chairman, Hugh Blakeway Webb, another of his place men until he fell dramatically from favour. A private deal between Sir Bernard and Mr Blakeway Webb required Sir B to buy Mr Blakeway Webb's shares should he leave the company. The price was a hefty £2 apiece, and it is a safe bet that, two years on from having to part with £8 million, Sir Bernard is still smarting.

Those close to him suggest that he would happily bail out of his stake, but not at this level. The fact that he has now countermanded the closure of two factories, a previously unthinkable

move, indicates that he may be beginning to recognise the scale of the company's problems.

But if John Thornton is a true friend, he may have to counsel Sir Bernard to lower his expectations. If George Mosbacher still believes that she can turn Laura Ashley into a truly international brand, then shareholders should encourage her to have a go, and hand over their stock before the price falls further.

## A very private entrepreneur

Will Whitehorn, factotum of Richard Branson's Virgin empire, has been engaged in one of the more subtle arts of City spin-doctoring: floating the idea of a flotation. Virgin Rail, franchisee of North West Main Line and the Midlands cross-country network, might raise money for some £800

million of investment in a deal that, according to unnamed City experts, might value Virgin Rail at about £250 million. Among many other things, it is not clear whether this would include Mr Branson's stake in EuroRail, the property group and would-be cross-channel railway company.

The boss himself played cautious statesman yesterday, insisting the matter was merely "under discussion". Unless Virgin is really stumped for finance, it should go no further than that.

Mr Branson is a brilliant, if erratic, entrepreneur in the old mode. Recognising that, he made one of his best decisions when he realised that floating Virgin Group had been a mistake and took it private again in 1988. The City likes winners, but in the long run does not appreciate strong-willed mavericks. Still less did Mr Branson care for the City's favourite suit, Others of like stamp, such as Alan Sugar and more recently Anita and

Gordon Roddick, have envied his timely move.

Private ownership allows the confident to back their hunches and take risks, so long as they keep their creditors on board. You can also change tack, as Mr Branson has frequently done, without being answerable to outside shareholders who suddenly find that their investment has changed beyond recognition.

Certainly, Mr Branson's empire has changed fundamentally since 1988. It is not just that transport and consumer products have displaced entertainment. The core business of Virgin is now to maintain and promote its own brand name. This is its biggest asset. It is applied to cola, pensions and, with less obvious success, to wedding dresses.

These businesses are discrete. Many rely on individual partners with the industrial expertise, deeper pockets or preferably both. But the owner of the name must remain in control to guard

his valuable franchise, creating a built-in conflict with potential third-party investors in one bit or another. Only lack of would-be rail partners can explain Mr Branson toying with a flotation of this outpost of empire.

If he went ahead, an army of Branson fans would doubtless back it. But few would bet against them living to regret it.

## Watch where the money goes

Not all investment trusts are out of favour, despite the general malaise in the sector. Value and Income Trust remains at a premium to assets and yesterday it received a resounding vote of confidence from the City when its £15 million debenture issue found plenty of takers at a gross yield of just 7.73 per cent.

This, boasts Matthew Oakeshott, is the cheapest long-term money to be raised by an investment trust since Roy Jenkins was Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr Oakeshott recalls that period fondly, having been an adviser to the said Chancellor. But now he and Angela Lascelles run OLIM, the fund

manager behind Value and Income. When the pair moved into VIT 11 years ago, it had assets of £7.5 million. After yesterday's issue, that figure has swelled to £100 million. So it may be worth taking note of where they intend to put the new money.

Most of it is headed towards the smaller companies which have not been beneficiaries of the stock market's bull run and should therefore avoid being the victims of the bears when they take over.

There is a growing enthusiasm for the second liners, both manufacturing and service companies. But VIT will also channel some of the new money into property, believing that while the institutions drive up the price of prime investments, there are less obviously attractive buildings which offer a generous return. The record suggests that OLIM's actions may be worth copying.

## Between friends

THOSE sound bureaucrats at the Paris-based OECD, doubtless fearing ostracism from the delights of polite official society, argue that it does not matter that Germany will fail the 3 per cent deficit test for joining the euro. Their forecast of 3 1/2 per cent for 1997 is, they say, "well within the range of normal statistical revision". Quite so. They omit to note that normal statistical revision could just as easily push the deficit over 3 1/2 per cent.

# Reform 'needed to cut German jobless rate'

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

UNEMPLOYMENT will remain at more than four million in Germany next year and is unlikely to fall fast unless many more structural reforms are made, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said in its annual report on the country.

The Paris-based economics agency projects that, after rising from 4 million to 4.3 million this year, unemployment will merely edge down to 4.2 million, or 10.9 per cent, in 1998. Recovery in the economy has been imbalanced, it says, leading initially to a fall in employment.

Growth is relying too much on exports outside Europe and the recent weakness of the mark. Fiscal measures to meet the Maastricht tests for economic and monetary union by the end of this year have left domestic demand flat.

Germany will still miss two of these targets on OECD projections, even though growth is expected to accelerate to 2 1/2 per cent this year and 2 3/4 per cent in 1998. But the OECD excuses these failures and argues that starting the euro on time is vital to long-term reform and new jobs.

It says the budget deficit will come down to 3 1/2 per cent this year and 2 1/2 per cent in 1998 before allowing for the net impact of tax cuts. But its economists maintain: "The difference from 3 per cent is well within the range of normal statistical revision so at this deficit level the criterion could be effectively regarded

as being met." Germany will also just break the rule that national debt must not be more than 60 per cent of national income, a test likely to be widely flouted by other countries.

The debt ratio is projected to rise again in 1998 to about 62 per cent. But the OECD says that this mainly because of unification.

The report chastises the German Government, and by implication even more the opposition, for delays in bringing forward cuts in taxes, state pensions and industrial subsidies, and in reforming healthcare. It complains that Germany's economic debate focuses too much on fairness rather than the need for a dynamic response to a changing global and European economy and the "overwhelming requirement" to create jobs.

The economists criticise efforts to protect people from rapid change. The speed and impact of reforms has been "seriously impaired by generous transition arrangements".

Given sluggish domestic growth, there is no cause to tighten monetary policy. OECD economists concluded, commenting on the day the Bundesbank left its repo rates unchanged, making a full year at 3 per cent.

Should growth prove too sluggish to cut the budget deficit, they say it would be better to accelerate privatisation of state assets than to put on extra excise duties or other ad hoc taxes.

## Stoves sales boosted by windfalls

STOVES, Britain's only big independent cooker manufacturer, lifted pre-tax profits to £5.2 million, from £4.3 million, in the year to May 31, on turnover that rose to £80 million from £63 million (Chris Ayres writes).

The company said that sales were being boosted by building society windfall payouts.

Stoves also yesterday disclosed plans to export to Germany and America. It said that its European investments would be phased according to currency exchange rates, while deliveries to America would start next month.

Earnings per share fell slightly, from 14.2p to 13.9p. A final dividend of 3.8p will be paid on October 15, taking the total dividend to 5.8p, up 11.5 per cent.

Tempus, page 26

## New chief quits at Watmoughs

By MARK COURT

DECLAN MURPHY has resigned as chief executive of Watmoughs, the printer, just eight months into the job and four weeks away from the company's interim results.

His departure comes after mounting pressure from institutions, alarmed by a succession of profits warnings and a sharp fall in Watmoughs's shares since Mr Murphy took the helm.

Patrick Walker, chairman, who ran Watmoughs for 30 years, is restored as chief executive. Mr Murphy, 37, had a management style that won him few friends in the City. One broker said: "He was considered to be very arrogant and people didn't like him. Anyone taking over from Patrick was going to have a tough time, but he went the wrong way about it. He took the

attitude that he didn't need the City and that he could run the business as he saw fit."

Mr Murphy was on a one-year rolling contract and is likely to receive around £180,000 in compensation.

Watmoughs's shares rose 4 1/2 p to 20 1/2 p yesterday. They traded at 48p in February.

One analyst commented: "The return of Patrick Walker will add a degree of stability to the business which should allow the share price to start recovering. Institutions are pleased to have him back."

The printing sector has suffered from overseas competition, high paper prices and low margins. Analysts expect pre-tax figures on September 17 to be as low as £6 million compared with £10.8 million last time.

Tempus, page 26

## Buoyant Pifco still on prowl

PIFCO HOLDINGS, the household appliance manufacturer whose takeover talks with Kenwood, its larger rival, fell through last month, said yesterday that it was looking for another acquisition (Chris Ayres writes).

The company reported a 23 per cent increase in profits to £3.8 million, from £3.1 million, for the year to the April 30.

Michael Webber, the chairman, said: "We're looking for acquisitions within the same industry which produce small household appliances. We have £7.5 million net cash so we are in a very good position."

Pifco will pay a final dividend of 3.5p (3.15p) on October 22, bringing the total dividend to 6p (5.45p).

## Millennium effect lifts computer pay at Parity

By CHRIS AYRES

THE WAGES of computer consultants rose by as much as 20 per cent last year, with some freelancers earning up to 30 per cent more than they could in a permanent position, according to Parity, a leading IT services provider.

Parity employs more than 3,500 permanent staff and has about 70,000 freelancers in Britain and Europe. Its share price surged yesterday by 39 1/2 p to 53 1/2 p.

Parity says the wage rises have been caused by the massive volume of work needed to solve the millennium problem, convert computers to recognise the euro currency, and set up complex intranet and Internet systems.

Paul Davies, Parity's chief executive, said: "Even if you take away the windfall of the millennium problem and EMU conversion, we have still have a lot of business associated with intranet and Internet systems. We have been especially active with consultancy. When people realise the cost of solving the millennium problem, they often decide to replace the system. If they're going to spend money, they may as well spend it wisely."

For the six months to June 30, pre-tax profits rose 32 per cent, from £4.3 million to £5.7 million, on turnover of £91 million, up 19.7 per cent from £76 million. Earnings per share rose 32 per cent, from 6.75p to 8.9p, and the interim dividend, due November 12, rose from 1.4p to 1.8p.

Tempus, page 26



Paul Davies, left, with David Firth, finance director

## B&J takes over rival cut-price retailer

By CHRIS AYRES

BROWN & JACKSON, the troubled cut-price retail group that owns Poundstretcher, is acquiring Your More Store, a rival discount chain, for £7.65 million.

Your More Store, with 127 outlets in Scotland and the North of England, is wholly owned by Pepkor, the South African retail group that is also the principal shareholder in Brown & Jackson.

Your More Store was founded by Johan Visser, the current chief executive of Brown & Jackson, in Scotland six years ago. In the year to June 30 it earned net profits of £757,000 on turnover of £34.7 million.

Brown & Jackson also disclosed a reduction in pre-tax losses to £2.7 million from £9 million in the year to June 30. Losses fell to 2.1p a share from 21 1/2 p. There is again no dividend.

Turnover rose 12 per cent from £167.4 million to £187.4 million, helping the company to report its first operating profits for five years of £500,000, compared with a loss of £3.1 million in the same period last year.

Despite the general upturn in consumer spending Brown & Jackson's like-for-like sales grew only 1 per cent.

Mr Visser said: "The current boom is happening above where we operate. The people who are enjoying the boom through windfall payments are not in the lower income brackets, which make up most of our customers."

## Capital sues over 'conspiracy'

By DOMINIC WALSH

CAPITAL CORPORATION is suing a former director and two former employees for conspiracy to injure the group.

The company yesterday issued a writ against Kenneth Thompson, former chief executive, Des Pereira, who was company secretary, and Guy Hutchinson, former food and beverage manager, alleging that they leaked company papers to press to create "a false and misleading impression as to the true value of its

business and its operating controls". Mr Thompson denied the allegation: "None of us has released anything to anyone."

In the past few days, reports have alleged that Capital's directors removed a profits warning from a draft interim results announcement last September and that John Dunkley, the gaming director, tried to exercise share options just before the interim results were due.

It was also alleged that Alan Hearn, chief executive, and Garry Nesbitt, former chairman, failed to tell the board

that they had received an approach from Ogden, the US gaming group, offering to take over the running of its two London casinos, Crookfords and the Colony Club.

Although Capital has admitted to lax controls by previous management, it maintains the new controls put in place are among the best in the industry. The Gaming Board, the industry regulator, gave the company a clean bill of health after investigating those failings, though it admitted concern yesterday at the latest allegations.

## More Power for your Money



The GATEWAY 2000® G6-233M gives you more multimedia power for your money. Check out our ready-to-run system for a multimedia feast!

Packed with an Intel® 233MHz Pentium® II Processor, a massive 3.2GB hard drive, loads of memory, a sound system with cool speakers to rival your home stereo, crisp graphics and an excellent voice/fax modem for Internet access — the G6-233M is everything you've been looking for in home computing.

You'll be amazed by our huge 19-inch monitor, perfect for viewing the pre-loaded Microsoft Office Small Business Edition software package. Designed to get the most out of your PC, this package also includes MS Money 97, helping you manage your home finances plus Encarta 97, keeping you up to date in today's fast-changing world.

Gateway 2000 is not just about the latest technology, superb systems and value for money. You can also rely on your friends in the business for award-winning service and support, including free phone technical support for as long as you own your PC. Plus a 30-day no-quibble money-back guarantee (shipping costs not refundable) and of course our Gateway 2000 warranties.

Give our friendly sales team a call today. Gateway 2000 — giving more PC power to the people!



http://www.gw2k.co.uk

Gateway 2000 - Clonsilla Industrial Estate - Dublin 17 - Ireland



©1997 Gateway 2000 Europe. Shows and computer design. "IT" logo is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Gateway 2000 is a trademark of Gateway 2000 Inc. The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corp. All trademarks of Intel Corporation. All other trademarks and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. All configurations and prices are subject to change without notice or obligation. All prices quoted in Sterling. All rates subject to Gateway 2000 Europe's standard terms and conditions. Limited warranty. Technical customer support is available Monday through Friday 9am - 5pm. \*Maximum download. Performance will vary depending on local conditions.



## STOCK MARKET

CLARE STEWART

# Shares near 5,000 again as Dow sets the pace

A US-led rally and receding fears of higher interest rates helped the London stock market to recover further ground after recent uncertainty.

A strong overnight gain on Wall Street fuelled early gains, with US traded stocks making good progress.

The FTSE 100 gained new momentum, following the more confident tone set by the Dow Jones. By the close, the index of leading shares had moved back through 4,900 to close up 79.2 at 4,914.2, just off its best of the day.

But volumes remained thin, with around 583 million shares traded, and dealers remain cautious on the strength of the recovery, dependent as it is on Wall Street's lead.

Ahead of retail sales figures due today, groups such as Kingfisher were in demand, putting on 17p to 734.1p, while Next moved up 2p to 784.1p.

MFI rose 4p to 559p, helped by a positive broker recommendation, while Carpetright added 10p to 537.1p.

Argos rallied 7p to 628.1p after interim figures on Monday. Analysts at UBS, full-year forecasts for the catalogue retailer, but remain buyers of the stock.

Supermarkets found selective form, with Tesco putting on 12p to 416.1p and Sainsbury up 10p to 326p. Sainsbury ended 2p higher at 381.1p, on news of new price cuts.

Wm Morrison Supermarket, the Bradford group, was the most heavily traded of second liners, with talk of a chunk of shares being placed. More than 11 million changed hands, with the price edging up 1p to 180p.

News of factory closures left Laura Ashley, the struggling fashion group, down a penny at 55.2p with more than three million shares traded, while further break-up speculation lifted WH Smith 2p higher to 375p. The group was shareholder approval to buy back up to 10 per cent of its share capital at its AGM yesterday.

US traded stocks moved up with Wall Street's strength. Reed International rose 15p to 558.1p, while drugs groups were also strong. Zeneca added 5p to 19.42p, while Glaxo Wellcome put on 3p to 123.1p.

Woolsey, the building materials group, jumped more than 5 per cent, rising 24p to 180p.



Michael Webber, of Pico, which rose 5p on takeover talk

469.1p, as concerns over a rise in US interest rates appeared to ease. The Midland-based group earns nearly half its profits in the US. Yesterday's move back up made it the top performer among FTSE 100 shares.

Banks were up again, with HSBC recovering some ground despite further falls in the Hong Kong market. The share rose 7p to 21.76p, helped by brokers talking of a

£26.00 target price. Barclays rose 1p to 13.93p. It continued its share buyback programme, spending £13.8 million on one million shares at 13.86p. Lloyds TSB put on 2p to 740p, the Halifax, which reports interim figures tomorrow, closed 1p higher at 731.1p, while the Woolwich rose 4p to 284.1p.

Speculation about the future of Hambros, the troubled merchant bank, resurfaced.

with the shares ending 10p higher at 227.1p. The bank disclosed it had rejected an approach from Fishers International over its stake in Hambros Insurance Services.

The stronger pound trimmed bank exporters with Stebo off 33p to 112.5p, GKN down 2p to 112.5p, and LucasVarley 2 1/2p easier at 20p. Cadbury Schweppes retreated 4 1/2p to 597.1p, after a bearish note from a US bank.

BT was the most heavily traded stock, with more than 19 million shares changing hands, and the shares ended 2p lower at 277.1p.

British Steel closed up 2 1/2p at 177.1p while BTR, with talk of disposals doing the rounds, again moved up to end 6 1/2p higher at 227.1p.

Talk of bid interest from Bass continued to buoy First Leisure, which rose 6p to 328.1p, while among football stocks Sunderland was cheered 7 1/2p higher to 342.1p.

Other figures: Boosey & Hawkes, the focus of takeover talk, raced away to 897.1p, a rise of 50p.

Parity, the computer services group put on 4 1/2p to 533p after reporting a 32 per cent rise in half-time profits, with HSCB James Capel positive.

Pico and Kenwood, the electrical appliances groups, were once again linked after Pico lifted year-end profits by 23 per cent and made clear its interest in new acquisitions. Despite the failure of its overtures to Kenwood, expectations that a deal might still be done helped Kenwood to put on 1 1/2p to 115p. Pico, headed by Michael Webber, chairman, closed at 209p, up 5p.

Biotech stocks rose, with Corbion adding 12 1/2p to 229p.

GLT-EDGED: With few economic statistics to chew on, the gilt market was becalmed. More activity is expected today with retail sales figures and money supply figures due to be released. The September series of the long gilt was unchanged at 115 1/2p on thin volumes of 47,000 contracts.

Similarly in long-term Treasury 8 per cent 2005 closed unchanged at 110 1/2p while 8 per cent 2000 stock at 102 1/2p.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average gained more than 60 points in late morning trading. By midday the Dow was up 60.10 points at 7,866.54.

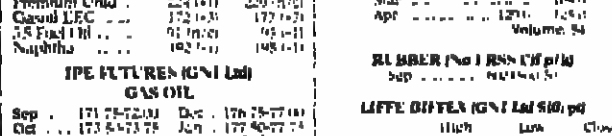
Shares in the electricity group and generators have proved a safe haven, sparking further rises for a sector that has slid back from its best levels this year.

Yesterday Southern Electric was in demand after positive talks from brokers, which helped the shares to gain 5p to 454p, while Northern Ireland Electricity moved up 3 1/2p to 435p.

PowerGen added 5 1/2p to 726.1p while National Grid rose 3 1/2p to 262.1p.

The sector has outperformed the FTSE all share since last November, leading last month's

Electricity: Still generating energy



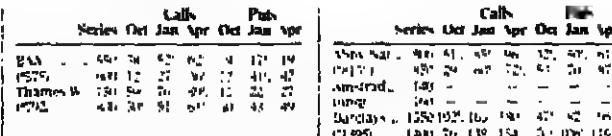
Shares in the electricity group and generators have proved a safe haven, sparking further rises for a sector that has slid back from its best levels this year.

Yesterday Southern Electric was in demand after positive talks from brokers, which helped the shares to gain 5p to 454p, while Northern Ireland Electricity moved up 3 1/2p to 435p.

PowerGen added 5 1/2p to 726.1p while National Grid rose 3 1/2p to 262.1p.

The sector has outperformed the FTSE all share since last November, leading last month's

Electricity: Still generating energy



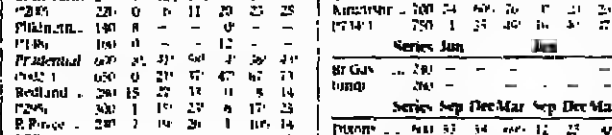
Shares in the electricity group and generators have proved a safe haven, sparking further rises for a sector that has slid back from its best levels this year.

Yesterday Southern Electric was in demand after positive talks from brokers, which helped the shares to gain 5p to 454p, while Northern Ireland Electricity moved up 3 1/2p to 435p.

PowerGen added 5 1/2p to 726.1p while National Grid rose 3 1/2p to 262.1p.

The sector has outperformed the FTSE all share since last November, leading last month's

Electricity: Still generating energy



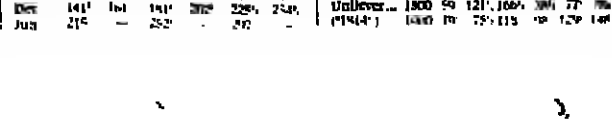
Shares in the electricity group and generators have proved a safe haven, sparking further rises for a sector that has slid back from its best levels this year.

Yesterday Southern Electric was in demand after positive talks from brokers, which helped the shares to gain 5p to 454p, while Northern Ireland Electricity moved up 3 1/2p to 435p.

PowerGen added 5 1/2p to 726.1p while National Grid rose 3 1/2p to 262.1p.

The sector has outperformed the FTSE all share since last November, leading last month's

Electricity: Still generating energy



## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):  
Dow Jones 7866.54 (+63.18)  
S&P Composite 921.55 (+9.08)

Tokyo:  
Nikkei Average 10961.00 (+80.10)

Hong Kong:  
Hang Seng 15477.26 (+19.62)

Amsterdam:  
EEX Index 947.45 (+29.97)

Sydney:  
All Ordinaries 2620.9 (+2.4)

Frankfurt:  
DAX 4194.62 (+10.02)

Singapore:  
Straits 1918.53 (+3.32)

Brussels:  
General 13608.85 (+172.12)

Paris:  
CAC-40 2926.16 (+66.03)

Zurich:  
SIX 1197.80 (+24.68)

London:  
FTSE 100 4914.2 (+79.2)  
FTSE 250 4698.6 (+17.2)  
FTSE 1000 2373.1 (+32.2)  
FTSE Europe 100 2637.0 (+6.59)  
FTSE All-Share 2317.8 (+30.44)  
FTSE Non Financials 2321.8 (+34.66)  
FTSE Interest 126.27 (+0.25)  
FTSE Govt Sec 56.07 (+0.07)  
Bargains 4358  
SEAD Volume 70.00  
US 1.6528 (+0.0048)  
German Mark 2.9487 (+0.0137)  
Exchange Index 102.6 (+0.3)  
Bank of England official rate (Hpm) 4.75%  
ECU 1.6362  
GSDR 1.1826  
RPI 197.5 Jul (3.36) Jan 1997=100  
RPIX 196.4 Jul (3.04) Jan 1997=100

## RECENT ISSUES

Antofagasta	404	+ 3 1/2
Billium	243	+ 5
Blakes Clothing	79 1/2	+ 1 1/2
Bristol & West PFA	109 1/2	+ 1 1/2
Cammell Laird	136 1/2	+ 1 1/2
EMI 8	115	+ 1 1/2
Fairfield Fms	117 1/2	+ 1 1/2
Finpro Consulting	34	+ 1 1/2
GIE Holdings	55	+ 1 1/2
Galen Holdings	194 1/2	+ 1 1/2
Helicon Publig	99	+ 1 1/2
Lonica Group	370 1/2	+ 5 1/2
Kingfisher Leisure	175 1/2	+ 1 1/2
LEPCO	79 1/2	+ 1 1/2
Landround	94 1/2	+ 1 1/2
Neuroline	205	+ 1 1/2
Reaumur Merfins	108 1/2	+ 1 1/2
SBS Group	109 1/2	+ 1 1/2
Severn Trent B	34 1/2	+ 1 1/2
Stentor Warrms	53 1/2	+ 3 1/2
Thorn 8	30 1/2	+ 1 1/2
Vigint Technology	65 1/2	+ 1 1/2

## RIGHTS ISSUES

Golden Land n/p (21) 2 - 24  
Logica n/p (605) 162 1/2 - 24

## MAJOR CHANGES

ARIS	315p (+35p)
Keweenaw	115p (+11 1/2p)
Gaskell	305p (+28 1/2p)
Parity	535p (+41p)
DCS Group	257 1/2p (+18p)
Telecom	277 1/2p (+15p)
Boosey Hawkes	897 1/2p (+50p)
Coates	226p (+14 1/2p)
Vico	575p (+21p)
Calm Energy	825p (+18 1/2p)
Bain Scotland	424 1/2p (+15p)
Wolsey	499 1/2p (+24p)
Next	784 1/2p (+29p)
Elsevier	989p (+38 1/2p)
FALLS:	
Trinity	108 1/2p (-4p)
Relis & Nelson	307 1/2p (-20p)
McKechie	432 1/2p (-14p)
Cot Telecom	371 1/2p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 29

## TEMPUS

## Angel's golden wings

ALTHOUGH there seems something divine about an Angel and a Virgin getting together, the practical complications of combining the train-leasing company with the rail operator would spoil the marriage at an early stage.

Angel could be heading for a market valuation of up to £800 million, while Virgin Rail would be lucky to fetch a £280 million price tag. Angel employs 50; Virgin's staff run into the thousands.

It seems more likely that, in six months' time, investors will be holding the prospectus of a stand-alone train-leasing company - and the opportunity to join in the biggest cash takeover of privatisation, Angel is the most lucrative of the three rail leasing companies, which are distinguished by their ability to make millions of pounds for doing not very much. Its margins of 45 per cent are more

handsome than even those of Porterbrook, the leasing company that gives Stagecoach its fancy raiment. More attractive still is the length of its contracts. They run for eight or nine years and make margin erosion a distant prospect.

Crucially, this protects against the main concern: a regulatory crackdown. Those 45 per cent margins may be at the expense of the taxpayer and the rail passenger, but with contracts enshrined in European law, John Prescott can do little about it.

Angel is also in pole position to take advantage of the £2.25 billion London to Manchester and Glasgow refurbishment. It may distress those who consider rail privatisation a robbery, but if Angel were to come to the market valued at anything under 16 times earnings, it would be a definite buy.

## Watmoughs

DECLAN SALTER'S departure as chief executive of Watmoughs, the printer, was the culmination of a wave of institutional dissatisfaction at the company's plunging share price.

Salter rubbed the City up the wrong way and he unwisely took the company out of its natural territory into areas such as printing direct mail literature. All the while Watmoughs' work was walking out of the door and that is the rot that Patrick Walker has been brought back to stop.

But the work was walking for a reason. Paper prices are 20 per cent cheaper in Europe. Germany has a huge amount of spare printing capacity and printing rates overseas generally are dropping like a stone.

## Parity

ALWAYS quick to judge, the City is unsympathetic towards managements who have disappointed in the past. Some venture capitalists argue this is short-sighted, and that a willingness to take the risks of failure is part of the make-up of the genuine entrepreneur.

Some support for this view can be seen in the career of Parity's Philip Swinstead, who acquired a reputation for over-optimism when he was running SD-Scot a few years ago. In truth, his shareholders had little to complain about when Electronic Data Systems paid £162 million for the systems house in 1991.

After a period in exile, Mr Swinstead has returned with a vengeance. Parity is riding the boom in IT consultancy and training caused by computers' problems in dealing with the millennium and the preparations for European

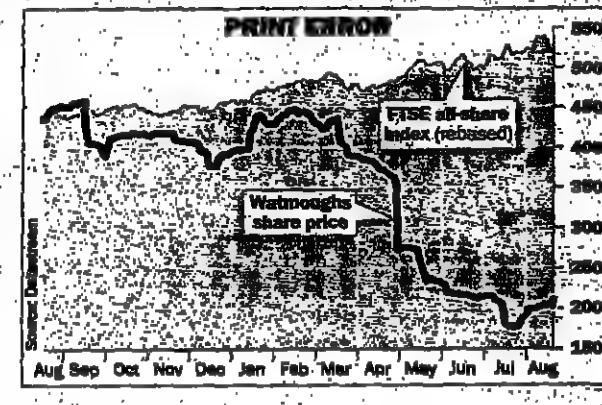
work is not time sensitive, such as printing mail order catalogues and annual reports, which does not have to be done in the UK.

Against this backdrop Mr Salter faced an almost impossible challenge. Printers have to invest heavily to be competitive on speed and quality and they need big orders to cover their

costs. They can then make profits on short-term work but this is the work that is shifting overseas.

Mr Walker's first task will be to hang on to the company's business and his stature in the printing industry means he is probably the only man that can do it.

But the future is almost as dark as printers' ink. Sell-



Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Watmoughs share price

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Watmoughs share price

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Watmoughs share price

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Watmoughs share price

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Watmoughs share price

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Watmoughs share price

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Watmoughs share price

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Watmoughs share price

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Watmoughs share price

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Watmoughs share price

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Watmoughs share price

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Watmoughs share price

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Watmoughs share price

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Watmoughs share price

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Watmoughs share price

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Watmoughs share price

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Watmoughs share price

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Watmoughs share price

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Watmoughs share price

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug



## Irish eyes on lucrative UK food market

Eileen McCabe on the expansionist aims of the Republic's recently created Avonmore Waterford dairy co-operative

A recent business conference in Dublin, Pat O'Neill, chief executive of Avonmore Foods, shared the platform with several high-flyers from the world of computer technology, and a government minister.

After listening to a few self-congratulatory speeches about how the Irish Republic is embracing the world of information technology and benefiting from the apparent largesse of the big global players in the industry, Mr O'Neill delivered a few home truths. Big multinational firms are all very well, he said, but don't lose sight of what is happening in indigenous industries. Look at the strides they have made in finding export markets for their products, the major job expansion and remember that, for the most part, these companies do not get government assistance. They are Irish-owned and are here to stay.

After 25 years in the Irish food industry, Mr O'Neill knows a thing or two about staying power—and most of the audience had to

concede that just weeks after steering through the biggest corporate merger in the Republic's history, a deal that creates the world's fourth-biggest dairy processing company, they were prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt on the issue of Irish companies on the world stage.

Now at the helm of the merged Avonmore Waterford Group (AWG), Mr O'Neill, 59, has postponed his retirement until 1999 because of the merger. He said: "I was going to leave at 60, but I have been asked to stay and I want to see this through."

Mr O'Neill joined the Kilkenny-based group in 1973, shortly after the region's loose confederation of more than 20 co-operative societies merged to become Avonmore co-op. After a decade of rapid growth spurred by the common agricultural

policy, the organisation was forced to make serious cutbacks when quotas were introduced in 1984. Three years later, the co-op's farmers decided the best way to fund expansion was a stock market flotation. A second rights issue in 1991 reduced the co-op stake in Avonmore Foods to 63 per cent.

Last month those same farmers and their colleagues from Waterford co-op turned out in their thousands to vote for the merger of two of the Republic's leading food companies. The share transfer deal creates a group with annual sales of £2.5 billion and operating profits of £100 million. AWG operates in

the Republic, Britain and the US. It has a milk pool of more than one billion gallons and cheese production capacity close to 330,000 tonnes. It processes around 1.7 million pigs and almost as many sheep annually. The combined Avonmore and Waterford co-operative now owns a 55 per cent stake in the new company.

Mr O'Neill is confident the scale of the combined operations will give AWG a leading market position as the consolidation in the food industry gathers pace. He believes the company will benefit from the increasing shift by major retailers to one big producer. "When we go into any of the major multiples now the AWG will be seen as a very important part of the British food industry and I believe that will give us a pivotal position there," he said.

The UK, which will account for £1 billion of AWG's sales, is also likely to suffer casualties under the current examination of operations, although Mr O'Neill refused to be drawn on the subject. Analysts have suggested that Waterford's whey plant in Appleby, Cumbria, and Avonmore's cheese plants in Llangefni, north Wales, and Whitchurch, Shropshire, will be

candidates for closure. "We have a combined 15 per cent of the UK liquid milk market and we believe we need to get up to north of 20 per cent," Mr O'Neill said. "I think you are going to see four or five players who will emerge as the leaders with about 20 per cent each and we want to be one of them."

Although AWG already has a substantial share of the UK's cheese production, largely because of Waterford's recent acquisition of The Cheese Company, he thinks there may be scope for in-fills in its range, particularly in continental cheeses. In America there is already speculation that one or two cheese facilities will be sold or become part of new joint-venture arrangements.

In the Republic, savings are likely to be sought in administration and in such areas as milk

collection and processing. Some analysts have suggested job losses could be as high as 600. Analysts anticipate savings of £15 million to £20 million in the first year of combined operations.

Mr O'Neill is convinced changing patterns of food consumption in Asia, particularly China, over the next decade will provide most opportunities for expansion by Western companies, including AWG. However, he is worried that the present EU quota regime for many foods is restricting their ability to access those markets.

The solution, he believes, lies in a two-tier quota system. "One quota to provide a guaranteed price for a certain quantity of produce and another quota under which people would produce what they wanted to at world market prices," he said. Mr O'Neill has given warning that if something is not done quickly, only companies from Australia, New Zealand and Canada will be in a position to tap into these rapidly expanding markets.

## B&Q hammers in its message while rivals are left trailing

A shake-out in the DIY sector is inevitable, says Sarah Cunningham

If you ever want to annoy the normally genial Jim Hodgkinson, try suggesting that B&Q, the do-it-yourself (DIY) company he chairs, has been helped to its market-leading position by good luck.

"Luck? It's not luck, it's hard work," he exclaims. But while no one disputes that B&Q's current success is partly the result of hard work, there is also general agreement that in the past 18 months, it has been very lucky.

"B&Q is clearly in pole position and doing far better than anyone else in DIY," says John Richards, retail analyst at NatWest Markets, adding—in an aside guaranteed to infuriate Mr Hodgkinson—"It has had a lot of luck."

B&Q's good fortune is that all the other major DIY retailers have been through some sort of turmoil just at the point that their market was beginning to recover along with the surge in house buying. The current year is expected to be the best for the DIY sector since the boom of the Eighties. And while Do It All, Homebase and Wickes have had nasty problems to deal with, B&Q has been able to romp off with market share.

The question all the chains are having to face is how they will cope when market conditions turn less favourable. Exactly when that will be is anyone's guess, but even the bullish Mr Hodgkinson thinks the DIY market will be tougher next year than this year.

B&Q's strategy is quite simple—it wants to build its market share. In the overall DIY market, it now claims nearly 19 per cent, while among the larger chains it reckons to have 43 per cent, up 3.5 per cent on a year ago. Mr Hodgkinson would like to see that share grow to 60 per cent.

He thinks that B&Q has only one serious competitor: Sainsbury's Homebase. That business's particular problems arise from the 1995 purchase of the Texas chain



Fewer B&Q Warehouses were opened last year than originally planned, reputedly an issue between Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy and Jim Hodgkinson

from Ladbroke for £250 million. The deal catapulted Homebase into second place in the DIY market, but it has also cost far more than expected to integrate the two very different chains.

Although the Texas logo has now disappeared and all the stores are now known as Homebase, only about 40 out of the nearly 200 former Texas stores have been fully converted. Sales in the unconverted stores have dragged down the performance of the whole Homebase business, and, some analysts say, the poor extension of the otherwise good image of Homebase.

Wickes's problems are quite different. It has spent the past year buried in accounting problems after the discovery of a £51 million black hole and is being run by a new set of managers. Its previous managers are under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office.

Do It All, now wholly owned by Boots after buying out WH Smith's half share, has been struggling with a major store closure programme. It is downmarket of Homebase

and observers believe that it has been struggling to build a stronger brand. Although as part of the highly profitable Boots group, its problems have been obscured, a recent trading statement suggested that it was not enjoying the sort of sales growth its competitors have reported.

Fortunes can change very quickly in DIY, however. The picture at B&Q is very different from a year and a half ago, before the market had shown any signs of recovery, when it had to report a 33 per cent slump in annual profits. According to widespread rumour at the time, Mr Hodgkinson, then chief executive, came close to leaving the company after falling out with Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, the chief executive of Kingfisher, its parent.

The reputed row was about the speed of expansion of the B&Q Warehouse chain. While Sir Geoffrey wanted to cut spending on it, Mr Hodgkinson was apparently pushing to keep up the pace.

In the event, Mr Hodgkinson stayed, and he now denies that any row took place. What is

certain is that the number of Warehouses opened last year was less than originally planned and that Mr Hodgkinson was shifted from the chief executive's to the chairman's seat at B&Q. There are now two people—Bill Whitting and Martin Toogood—looking after operations, while Mr Hodgkinson is handling strategy, including the expansion into Taiwan and beyond.

There is just one B&Q store now open in Taiwan, with a further two set to open this year. An agreement has been signed to open a fourth next year and Mr Hodgkinson reckons there is scope for 25 stores in Taiwan. Mr Hodgkinson says other markets are being looked at: "Everyone looks at China, but it is not easy, not like doing an opening in the UK. We have nothing planned yet," he says.

Back in the UK, all the DIY retailers were piqued by a recent National Consumer Council survey that showed that fewer than seven customers in ten think they are well

cared for in their stores. The bitterest complaints were about unhelpful and inexperienced staff, slow service and long queues.

Mr Hodgkinson says that DIY is a difficult market in which to operate: "If you buy food, you don't ask for recipes and if you buy clothes, you don't ask how the trousers are made," he says. The company's answer has been to employ more people aged 50 and over, who have years of DIY experience, and more former tradesmen. The problem here, as a rival DIY retailer points out, is that tradesmen do not necessarily want to act as shop assistants and are not necessarily the best communicators.

Andy Randall, head of operations at Do It All, said that customers are always put first while Ross McLaren, managing director of Homebase, said that the criticism from customers was "disheartening". But they have all failed to come up with a strong defence of their service levels.

Verdict, the retail consultancy, is as damning as the consumers themselves. It calls it a "do-it-yourself rather than

well help you" market and says that "Service should be key in DIY. There are few other retailing sectors where a product is less ready to use and where shopping is a trial rather than a pleasurable experience."

But Mr Richards points out that B&Q is unlikely to worry too much about service while its competitors remain in disarray and while across the sector as a whole, low margins and rising rents mean that no one is going to splash out on boosting checkout staff levels in the way supermarkets have done.

Another problem that worries the sector as a whole is that there are simply too many DIY outlets. As soon as the market begins to fade, there will have to be another round of closures and perhaps even some further consolidations.

All eyes are now on the housing market. B&Q has done more than its rivals to build defences against a downturn, but no amount of luck will stop it from suffering if, as in the past, the good times for the DIY sector disappear as quickly as they appeared.

## How our mutual friends sustain the buying

Grey Friday: we had that all right. So why no Black Monday? Market talk has been of 1987, when after a small rise in interest rates, the Dow fell 30 per cent in a few days. The charts have been looking ominously similar to 1987: a bull run reaching a speculative climax, equity yields a fraction of real bond yields, and talk of rising rates.

Was this just a muted dress rehearsal, or are we in a different kind of market? In two respects we are. Since 1987 there has been an explosive growth in mutual funds (unit trusts, in English) for the small private investor in the US—only 2 per cent of the total market in 1987, but, according to figures from the Bank Credit Analyst, nearly a quarter of total market capitalisation. At the same time the pension funds have increasingly switched out of direct shareholding into index-tracking funds. (The same trends can be seen less dramatically in Britain and across the Channel, though hardly as all in Japan.) These two institutions have one important feature in common: they tend to go on buying even when the market looks soft. As long as they go on, they prevent the emergence of the one-way, sellers-only market that we call a panic. A correction, then, tends to be orderly, and followed by a bounce. So no crash, now or later? That depends first, on what it may take to panic the funds themselves—and only experience will tell us if and when that will happen. Or if their nerves hold on when the funds become cash distributors rather than cash collectors, so that they are routinely sellers rather than buyers. That will happen when enough current savers retire—about a decade from now in the US, and possibly sooner in some European markets.

The US mutual fund explosion has been a great breeder of optimism; but it started as a result of two apparent disasters. First came the virtual collapse of the savings and loans (for Britain, read building societies) in a poisonous fog of speculation and worse. That destroyed what had been the

favourite home for American private savings. Savers switched first into money-market mutuals; but then came the 1987 crash, and cuts in interest rates. The money funds could no longer pay enough to satisfy the US retired: they switched again into equity funds—cautiously at first, and then, as the profits appeared, in a rush.

The total value of the funds has grown nearly 50-fold in a decade, until they are big enough to stabilise the whole market. Not always: equity funds can and do go partly liquid at times. But they are under strong pressure to get fully invested, and pretty quickly. They know that clients will be understanding if fund values drop in line with a falling market, but not if they fail to keep up when the market rises. So as long as funds flow in, they buy, and after a bull run, inflows can far exceed the rather meagre net savings shown in the US national income figures. US investors are at present happy to finance much spending with credit card and mortgage debt, so that they have more to spare for investment.

Steady readers may be minded of the fatal role of broker loans in the 1929 boom and crash, and they are right. There are obviously horrendous risks in a credit-financed bull market: in a real crash, citizens might be unable to repay their credit card and mortgage loans, and so undermine the whole system. So far, though, this only seems to worry a few occupational pessimists like Jim Grant of the *Interest Rate Observer*, and no doubt the governors of the Fed, who give warning of "irrational" share prices. So far, though, they have failed to check the excitement. They wish they knew the secret.

And what about the professionally managed pension funds, which are meant to be sophisticated? Most of them have managed so poorly that trustees have demanded a switch into index-tracking funds, which do just that. Such funds are virtually bound to stay invested. So no selling and no worries? Hardly. A crash may be delayed; but the later it comes, the bigger it may be.



ANTHONY HARRIS

## What crisis?

I SEE Norman "je ne regrette rien" Lamont hasn't lost his touch. The man who brought you the ERM crisis now chairs the Indonesia Fund, and his chairman's statement, coming at the end of six months when the fund underperformed the Jakarta composite index, is about as informative as his alleged off-limits bills.

"Any concerns over comparisons between Thailand and Indonesia are unlikely to be validated," the former Chancellor tells investors. "Unlike

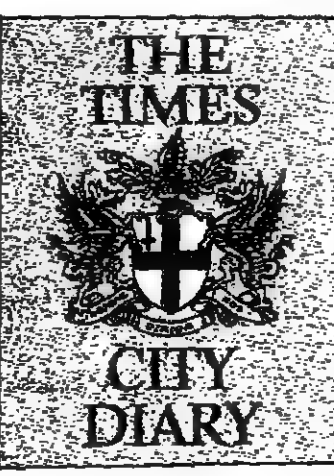
Thailand, the Indonesian economy is currently enjoying one of its best economic cycles... this backdrop has helped to maintain the stability of the devaluation of the Thai baht."

Clearly, Lamont wrote this before the Indonesian rupiah freely floated, suffering a 20 per cent devaluation and causing the market to crash. But he was never one to let a currency crisis bother him.

### Petty sessions

ANOTHER TRUST chairman with South-East Asian interests is Robin Boyle, the former stockbroker now heading Ashley Trust. Boyle, who was the Boyle in Pember Boyle and Dunbar before "downshifting" to Cornwall, is now running a restaurant and guest house called *Memories of Malaya* housed in a former 18th-century coaching inn.

But in spite of being just 11 miles from Rock—or "Fulham-by-the-Sea" as it is known—business is slow. "The locals don't care for spicy food," Boyle tells me. However, he is converting a large upstairs room—which used to be used as a petty sessions court—into a huge suite that he will rent out at "extortionate rates". Looks like the place for Michael Hardern to hatch his Co-op plot.



WHAT is Sir Terence Conran up to? First pre-processed chips are discovered being delivered to his swanky Bluebird Cafe, then one finds an interesting range of products on sale at his intimate Quaglin's restaurant. Alongside the colognes in the gentlemen's rest rooms is a notice saying "emergency supplies are also available". Whatever can this mean?

### Safe bet

MY NEWLY instituted Rod Stewart award for generosity goes to the Bristol & West Building Society. It is planning to renew its sponsorship of

Bristol Rugby Club. Under the old deal, the rugby union team was offering a line out of incentives including £50,000 for winning the Courage League (as was), £20,000 for victory in the Pilkington Cup or £50,000 if Bristol were the European champions. In the end Bristol had a less than storming season and picked up only £20,000 for scoring more than 40 tries. And the building society didn't even shell out for that, as it paid £10,000 for an insurance policy to cover the payouts. It is currently talking to Lloyd's of London about a new policy. My man with the oval ball and the oranges at half-time is not betting on a wildly increased premium this year.

TOMKINS, I hear, is looking for a new non-executive director. The group has only three and admits that Charles Gates—who joined when Tomkins bought his company last year—is not exactly independent. Another non-exec is Roger Holland, the former chief executive of Cray Electronics, now Anite. In spite of the army-bargy surrounding Anite, Ian Duncan, the Tomkins finance director, is quick to Holland's defence. "He's a very capable businessman." Tell that to Anite's shareholders.

### Undercover

A SCURRILOUS suggestion reaches my ears as to why Scottish Media—

the TV group that changed its name when it bought The Herald in Glasgow—was willing to pay 205p a share to pick up a 29.9 per cent stake in Ulster TV last week. The story is that Scottish's chief executive Gus Macdonald, using the skill he picked up as an investigative journalist, discovered that Lord Hollick's United News & Media was just about to make a bid for Ulster at 205p a share. So to thwart the Labour peer, and curry favour with his Ulster-born director, Mirror Group man David Montgomery, Gus slipped in first. Impressive, if true.

JASON NISSE



Lord Hollick's bid for a stake in Ulster TV was thwarted

Notice to existing investors

## WOOLWICH

WOOLWICH GUERNSEY LIMITED

### New Interest Rates

With effect from 18th August 1997

	£500	£9,999	Gross p.a.
Sterling			
International			6.00%
Gross Account	£10,000	£39,999	6.50%
With instant access	£40,000	£99,999	6.90%
	£100,000	£249,999	7.10%
	£250,000	£999,999	7.25%
	£1 million +		7.35%

Principal Place of Business and Registered Office:  
Woolwich Guernsey Limited,  
PO Box 341, La Tonnelle House, Les Banques,  
St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 3UW.

For details of all accounts offered by Woolwich Guernsey Limited please telephone: 01481 715735 or fax 01481 715722

Deposits made with the offices of Woolwich Guernsey Limited are not covered by the Deposit Protection Scheme under the UK Banking Act 1987. Woolwich plc has given a legal undertaking agreeing to discharge the liabilities of Woolwich Guernsey Limited in so far as Woolwich Guernsey Limited is unable to discharge them out of its own assets, and while Woolwich Guernsey Limited remains a subsidiary of Woolwich plc. The undertaking has been given for a five year period and will come to an end on 10 June 2001 (although it may be renewed after that date). The undertaking may terminate before that date if Woolwich plc no longer has a controlling interest in Woolwich Guernsey Limited or if one later is given six months notice that the undertaking is to be terminated. Woolwich Guernsey Limited: Principal place of business and registered office: La Tonnelle House, Les Banques, St Peter Port, Guernsey. Tel (0044) (0) 1481 715725. Registered under the Banking Supervision (Guernsey) Law 1994 as amended. Paid up Share Capital and reserves exceeding £20m. Incorporated in Guernsey, registration no. 25381. Copies of the Company's most recent audited accounts are available on request. A wholly-owned subsidiary of Woolwich plc. Representative Office: Woolwich plc, Watling Street, Booterley, Kent DA6 7HR, Tel (UK) (0) 181 228 6000. No deposits or withdrawals may be made without decision of proper authority.



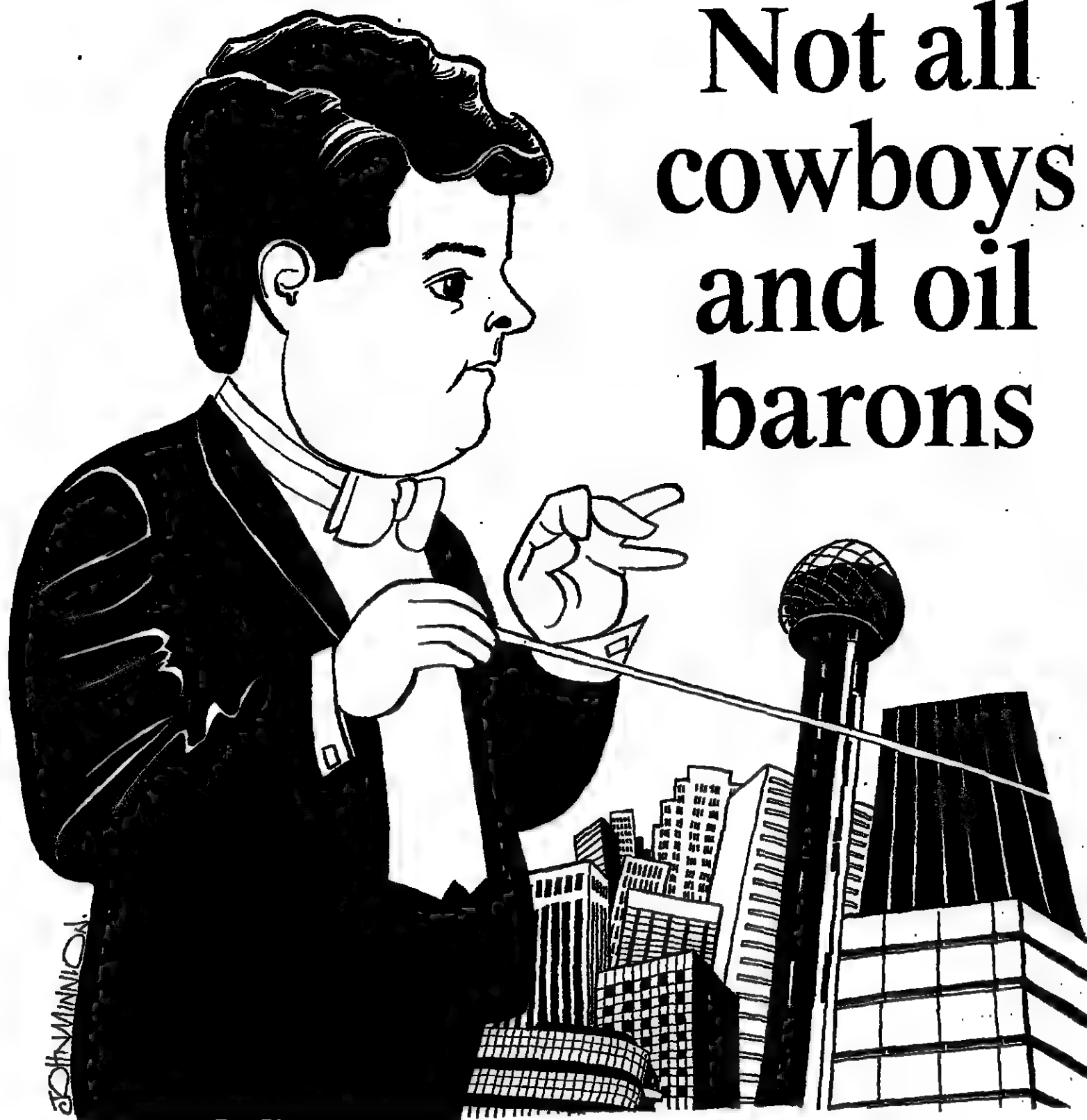
THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]



141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000
141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824																																																																																																																																																																																





## Not all cowboys and oil barons

Dallas has set about building itself a world-class orchestra, and the results can be judged at the Proms in London this weekend. Richard Morrison reports

In some towns you can smell the ambition. Dallas is such a place. Its improbably skewed skyscrapers are more ostentatious than you find anywhere else: its entrepreneurs hungrier for the deal; its mansions more palatial; its football team the costliest in America; its can-do bravado exuberant even by Texan standards.

Perhaps there is something a bit pathological about the place, as though a strenuous demonstration of corporate America at its most dazzling will somehow expunge all memory of one black day in November 1963. But whatever makes Dallas tick, it ticks loud and clear.

So when the city decided to pick up its venerable orchestra and hurl it into the musical superleague, there was no doubt in anybody's mind (at least in north Texas) that the name of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra would soon be up there with New York, Chicago and Boston. Has it arrived yet? That may be judged at the Proms on Sunday night, when the Dallas Symphony performs American music and Tchaikovsky under the direction of Andrew Litton (left), the young American appointed as its music director three years ago. But if bags of money, determination and civic pride count for anything, Dallas could soon top the league.

Its financial circumstances are already enough to turn any British orchestral manager green with envy. In the late 1980s, backed by nearly \$100 million of corporate, private and city money, Dallas engaged one of the world's most expensive architects, I.M. Pei (of Louvre pyramid fame), to build a concert hall that would astound the world. The gamble paid off: Pei's extraordinary creation, with its eye-popping dome, vast foyers of the purest Italian marble, showboat-style interior and revolutionary acoustic design (by Russell Johnson, who would later do the same for Birmingham), became a nightly showcase for smart Dallas society.

Ticket sales soared. Dallas has now completed its eighth successive sold-out season. It is one of only five American orchestras currently operating without a deficit. "Our marketing manager has just been in London to advise your Royal Opera House," says Eugene Bonelli, the orchestra's president, with only the merest trace of gloom.

But ticket sales are only the half of it. Private and corporate giving on a truly Texan scale brings the orchestra a further \$6 million a year. Social events run by committees of rich ladies add \$1 million annually.

That level of fundraising has enabled the orchestra to take a bold step: rather than waiting for the culturally apathetic TV networks to broadcast orchestral concerts, the Dallas Symphony is financing

and filming its own series of music programmes aimed at children. These are then passed on to TV stations for broadcast.

Now there is a drive to take the orchestra's endowment fund, currently \$45 million, up to \$100 million by the centenary season in 2000, in order to attract the best players on top salaries. That eye-popping figure won't be the biggest in America. The Boston Symphony has an astonishing \$130 million stashed away. But no orchestra has accelerated quicker from small-town band to international status. "Dallas is a wealthy city, and people here see investment in their orchestra as very important to the city's image, and hence to its future wealth," Bonelli says.

The biggest change in Dallas's life, however, has been the arrival of Litton as music director. He was just 34 when he came and still looks like a puppyish high-school student. The appointment was risky and surprising. Even today,

getting the players to come out of their shells."

He has also changed the orchestra's repertoire. An English-music festival is one project; another is a complete cycle of Mahler's symphonies, including the gigantic Eighth in 2000 as a climax to the orchestra's centenary.

"That would be an ironic twist of fate for me," Litton says. "When I was in England we were going to do Mahler's Eighth for the Bournemouth orchestra's centenary, but the funding was withdrawn by the local council, who felt we should be doing English music. So, like Scarlett O'Hara on the cart at the end of Part One of *Gone With the Wind*, I vowed that this would never happen to me again."

Will the Eighth bring Litton's Mahler cycle to a close? "Possibly," he says. "I said that I would wait until I was 40 before conducting the Ninth; you should have lived some before attempting that piece. Well, I turn 40 in May 1999, so there is time to slot it in before 2000."

Litton took something else from his English years that might profoundly affect musical life in Dallas: a generous appreciation of Simon Rattle's achievement in Birmingham. "Like Dallas, Birmingham was a place that really tried hard to build up a cultural life. Such places have an energy that is missing in more established set-ups. While the London crowd was sitting around thinking 'business as usual', Rattle showed that a long-lasting monogamous relationship between one conductor and one orchestra can build up something really special, even in the most unlikely place."

Can Litton pull off the same trick in Dallas? Certainly, the Mahler Two that I heard him conduct in Dallas a few months ago was an electrifying mixture of passion, power and precision. The question is whether the genial Litton quite has the ruthless streak that all top conductors occasionally need.

But the progress so far has been encouraging. Litton only wishes that more American critics acknowledged the success story. "The press here has fostered such pessimism about classical music. When you read in *The New York Times*, on five consecutive Sundays, articles about how the death knell has sounded for symphony orchestras, you feel like shouting: 'Hey, tell the readers the good news too! In Dallas, we're winning.' But, nobody ever mentions that."

● The Dallas Symphony performs Roy Harris, Samuel Barber and Tchaikovsky at the Proms on Sunday at 7.30pm (Albert Hall, 071-589 8212; also broadcast live on BBC2 and Radio 3). It then visits Waterfront Hall, Belfast, Aug 31; National Concert Hall, Dublin (Sept 1) and Symphony Hall, Birmingham (Sept 3).

## A Russian bear fight

BBC PROMS

TCHAIKOVSKY said of Glinka's *Karaminskaya*, which opened this Prom, that it was the acorn from which the whole Russian symphonic school grew. It is an extraordinarily condensed premonition: the elision of two folk tunes repeated across different, dazzling orchestrations culminating in persistent ostinati that would find their most thrilling echo in Stravinsky's *Rite*. In Tchaikovsky's own First Piano Concerto,

which followed, we hear Glinka again, not just in the tripping Ukrainian folk tune but in the surging melancholy. Glinka brought such "Russianness" firmly into the European tradition. But when it comes to bringing Russian-ness out in a performance, Osmo Vänskä and the BBC

Scottish Symphony Orchestra were sharing the Albert Hall platform with strong competition. In the bear-like shape of Grigory Sokolov. And from the moment Sokolov hit the keys running, the

orchestra paled beside him. Vänskä seemed curiously intent on refining his reading, with self-conscious pianissimos verging on the timorous. The result was that Sokolov, whose own palette is richly orchestral, almost drowned them out. Sokolov is a mature artist with a fearsome energy

to unleash; and by the finale he seemed to have become impatient with the orchestra, and hurried towards the end with increasing pugnacity.

Vänskä's sense of restraint was channelled to better effect in Shostakovich's First Symphony. The first movement, if slack, can sound like a comic steepleschase, but Vänskä's tight grip gave it urgency.

As devotion looms, it was an opportune moment to dwell on the impassioned words of the Pict Calgacus against the Imperial Romans, subject of Edward McGuire's *Calgacus*. His eloquent speech is here transformed into a rousing, beguiling melody, played by Robert Wallace as he strode down the stalls steps. For this climactic moment strings provided a drone and drums a dramatic commentary. This is a piece of great originality which has not dated in 20 years.

HELEN WALLACE

## Friends share a new Dutch treat

Barry Millington welcomes the chamber music festival at Delft

MUSIC festivals proliferate in summer: like poppies in a cornfield, and some may ask whether we really need a new one like Isabelle van Keulen's at Delft. In fact, this is a new type of festival that has sprung up in recent years — obvious models are Kuhmo in Finland, Gidon Kremer's Lockenhaus in Austria and Leif Ove Andsnes's Risør in Norway — precisely as an antidote to the international circus of Edinburgh, Salzburg and the rest.

Van Keulen has persuaded a group of friends — artists of the calibre of the Vogler Quartet, clarinetist Michael Collins, trumpeter Håkan Hardenberger, as well as Kremer and Andsnes themselves — to come to the historic city of Delft and play together for next to nothing. In return, they can investigate repertoire they might not elsewhere and they get a substantial, receptive audience. The venue is the courtyard of the Prinsenhof Museum, specially converted with a steel and glass roof, and the acoustics are excellent, encouraging a quality of listening rare on the festival circuit.

This is all the more remarkable given the challenging nature of the programming. Stravinsky and the equally uncompromising Swedish composer Allan Pettersson — a rugged, powerful individualist — loomed large in this first year: there was also bracing percussion music from Xenakis and the Dutchman Sytze Smit, alongside works by Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Schubert.

Of the two world premieres, Smit's *Songs and Games* was the more worthwhile. Six percussionists, led by the excellent Peter Sadlo, engaged in lyrical and lucid dialogue with a pro-active, solo violin (Van Keulen), the latter rhapsodising freely but constantly initiating new phases. A passage for vibraphone and marimba had an especially evocative quality, but it was Van Keulen's climactic stroke on the tam-tam that crystallised the theatrical impulse behind the work.

The other world premiere was by Mendelssohn — Vladimir Mendelssohn, that is, a member of Van Keulen's Isos Quartet. The jocular title of *2 Caprices No 3* gives notice of a black, heavy-handed humour in which an uneasy marriage of classical and modernist harmony results in a pretentious mish-mash.

More rewarding was Hardenberger's collaboration with the poet Jacques Werup in *Homage to Life*, in which solo trumpet pieces by Takemitsu, Kagel and others were delivered with this player's incomparable mastery of sonority and technique. Elsewhere, Michael Collins made several outstanding contributions and there were innumerable fresh, invigorating performances of more standard repertoire works too.

No highly paid arts consultant would have dreamt up such a recipe, but at a stroke Delft has established both an identity and an audience. Highly impressive and all profoundly encouraging.

## GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

ASHA KAHLON

Age: 28.

Profession: Actress.

African summer: *My Native Land*, a new play by Rodney Clark set in British East Africa between 1936 and 1940, opens tomorrow at the Lyric Studio. Hammer-smith, with Kahlon in the lead as Poppy, the 19-year-old daughter of a wealthy Indian businessman.

Synopsis: Poppy defies her father's wishes by becoming a schoolteacher and beginning an inter-racial affair with a working-class Englishman. "I think at that age I was quite like Poppy — very independent and with an idealistic view of the world."

Happy return: Appearing at the Lyric will bring extra satisfaction because she has already spent hundreds of hours there — working as a waitress to pay the rent during her final year at LAMDA. "I would always look jealously at the actors coming in and out of the Lyric, wonder what it was like for them as performers and wish it was me."

Background: Born in Punjab, she came to London with her family at the age of six. "I didn't speak a word of English, but was still young enough that learning a new language from scratch at school was not a problem."

First stage appearance: Durdans Park Middle School, Southall. "A wonderful teacher called Peter Smith would get us to act out little scenes for his assembly talks. I was hooked."

Training: In her late teens, the student groups run by Questors Theatre in Ealing were "the real doorway" to acting. Unable to secure a maintenance grant for a drama course she spent three years working to save money, first as a clerk with Ealing Council, then as a nanny.

Does race make a difference? "When I finally went to LAMDA, I was the only Asian out of 32 students in my year. That made me look around and think about what my position in this profession might be. My first job after graduating was in a production of *Macbeth* at the Tricycle Theatre which used colour-blind casting. That gave me confidence."

Short-term forecast: "There's a strong crop of Asian writers emerging at the moment, people like Ayub Khan-Din, Farv Bunsall and Ravi Kapoor, which will mean more diverse stage roles for Asian actors. Whatever the part or play, I just want to be working. That's the best feeling."



ASHA KAHLON

DANIEL ROSENTHAL

## Mondrian at the Tate

Mondrian: Nature to Abstraction

From the Haags Gemeentemuseum, The Hague

26 July – 30 November 1997

Advance tickets £6.60/£4

from First Call: 0171-420 0000

Sponsored by

Century summer programme in association with THE TIMES

Tate Gallery



For too long Hollywood has ruled the science fiction roost. Now, Sheila Johnston reports, the old empire is striking back

# Close encounters of the Euro kind

When Luc Besson's *The Fifth Element* opened the Cannes Film Festival in May, the trade publication *Variety* described it huffily, as "a largely European attempt to make an American-style sci-fi spectacular". Critics on both sides of the Atlantic had the same view: since the blockbusting space operas of the 1970s, America has colonised the science fiction genre, and woe to anyone who dares trespass. Weeks later, the success of *The Fifth Element* in America indicated that it could be time to think again. Europeans are venturing back into the galaxy.

This week sees the opening of *Event Horizon*, a slab of Gothic

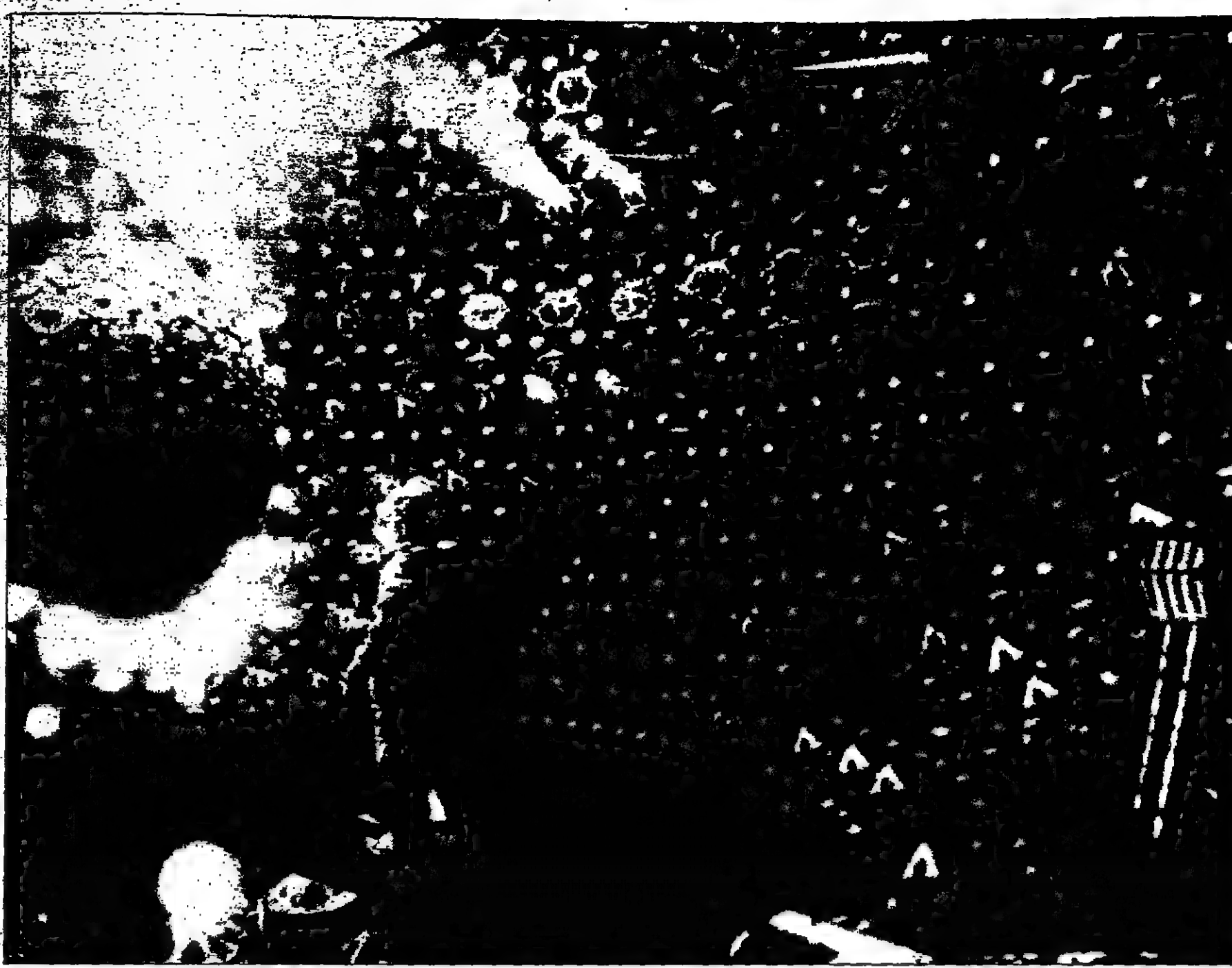
There's a definite sensibility emerging. It's a cinema of ideas.

horror in deep space from the British director Paul Anderson. The Spanish director Guillermo Del Toro will have his new horror-fantasy, *Mimic*, at the Venice Film Festival next month, while Gabriele Salvatores's *Nirvana* has been a commercial hit in its native Italy, launching a small crowd of local imitators.

The story of a video-game player (Christopher Lambert) struggling to escape his destiny, *Nirvana* is a dramatic departure for its director-producer team, Salvatores and Maurizio Toti: their most notable previous hit was *Medieval*, a gentle comedy about a platoon of Italian soldiers on a Greek island during the Second World War, which won the Best Foreign Film Oscar in 1992.

*Nirvana* marks the first time that Toti has sold a film to America which was not a traditional art-movie. "Audiences expect Italians to make comedies with big tits, tomatoes and mandolins," he says. "But why shouldn't we make science fiction? People aren't surprised that Martin Scorsese is making a film about the Buddha."

Observers agree that this new strain of European futurism differs sharply from the American. The fantasy writer Chris Fowler, two of whose novels are currently in pre-production, says: "There's a definite European sensibility emerging. It's a cinema of ideas."



Not very Spielberg: *Event Horizon*, which opens in Britain on Friday, is a Gothic horror film with Tarkovsky overtones which happens to be set on board a space ship

The makers of *Event Horizon* can back up that claim. Anderson says that one of the works he studied before shooting began was Andrei Tarkovsky's *Solaris* (1972), the quintessential European art-house science-fiction movie. "In American films the characters come on screen with a wisecrack and they're part of a team," Anderson says. "But there's a terrible loneliness about *Solaris*. Before the central character goes on his mission, we see him staring at a

puddle for what seems about 15 minutes. Then it begins to rain and he walks back to his house. At the beginning of *Event Horizon* you see the central character in his white pod, and he's just a sad, lonely man. For the first seven minutes, only one sentence is said: 'Clare, God, I miss you.'

Also I think the darkness of the visual style is very European. The spaceship is based on the floorplan of Notre Dame Cathedral: it is cruciform, the thruster rockets are

towers from Notre Dame turned on their side and all the superstructure is based on the stained-glass windows, but rendered in iron and steel rather than glass and lead. There was a lot of religious imagery in the script and it set me thinking along those lines."

One reason for the new wave of sci-fi is the growing clout of the international market. In the past, American films earned most of their box office takings on their home turf. Today, as Jeremy Bolt,

the producer of *Event Horizon*, points out, "foreign earnings can be worth up to 70 per cent of our profits. That's why Hollywood executives are saying, 'We must make sure we appeal in foreign markets, therefore perhaps we need foreign sensibilities.'"

Small wonder, then, that studios and independent mini-majors such as Miramax are scouring Europe for talent like other writers. Fowler notes "a definite sense of the market being trawled." *Event Horizon* was

bankrolled by Paramount, while elsewhere Europeans have been recruited to give American sci-fi a novel spin: the director Paul Verhoeven for *Starship Troopers* and Jean-Pierre Jeunet (*Delicatessen*) for *Alien Resurrection*, the fourth film in the lucrative *Alien* series.

The usual scenario of current Hollywood sci-fi involves a nation under siege by alien invaders. But it seems foreigners are becoming bored with watching Americans

battle the scum of the universe in films such as *Mars Attacks!*, *Independence Day* and *Men in Black*. "They're here, they're bad, let's have lots of explosions," as the critic Nigel Floyd puts it. "It's all just flag-waving nonsense."

Significantly, the only recent big-budget American movie to depart from this principle has been *Contact*, a philosophical, non-action orientated piece in which Jodie Foster makes contact with friendly extraterrestrials. Opening in America opposite *Men in Black*, it drew mixed reviews and looks likely to do vastly inferior business. But we may love it this side of the pond. Euro sci-fi might have no desire to ape Hollywood-style action-ad-

I think the darkness of the visual style is very European.

venture, but it probably also has no option. We have the technical resources to produce sophisticated special effects, but rarely the budgets. "Old-style sci-fi used relatively inexpensive physical effects, with models," says Floyd. "Today most of them are digital, which means a lot of money. Industrial Light and Magic, George Lucas's post-production house, claims that it is second only to NASA in terms of computer power."

"People here have been trying to film J.G. Ballard's *High Rise* for years. But it's a \$60 million movie. Who's going to put up that kind of money?" On the other hand, it could be exactly this which enables Euro sci-fi to avoid the trap of American event movies, where — as Hollywood screenwriters have been increasingly complaining — story and character often lose out to spectacular effects.

But the jury remains out on the existence of a genuine long-term revival. To date, *Nirvana* has not attracted a British distributor. And advance reaction suggests that mixed reviews await *Event Horizon*, although the film-makers remain bullish. And in any case, does it matter what the critics say? When the same *Variety* critic who trashed *The Fifth Element* hammered Anderson's first film, *Shopping*, as "a reckless orgy of destruction", they merely splashed the quote proudly over the poster.

## Traveller with a roving eye

The revised version of Michael Pennington's celebrated one-man show appears on a sorrowful day for the Peter Hall Company. Ed and David Milvich, Canadian producers and owners of the Old Vic, have announced that the building is to be sold in December.

This is a sad curtailment of a project that Hall hoped might last five years, a revival of the repertory system he has always believed works best for actors, playing seven days a week. I have no figures for the season as a whole, but when I saw *Waiting for Godot* two weeks ago the house was packed. Pennington manages to make a coded reference to Beckett's play in the course of his performance, which is quite an achievement when the man he is portraying died two years before Beckett was born.

This biographical entertainment was first seen at the National Theatre in 1984, since when more details of Chekhov's life have surfaced as the oil-slick of Soviet censorship fades away. These revelations chiefly show the man's fondness for women, fat or thin, Russian or foreign, and must have been suppressed because censors always believe that the only hero is a sedate hero. A daydream of settling in The Netherlands with a Dutch woman and a cow is particularly endearing.

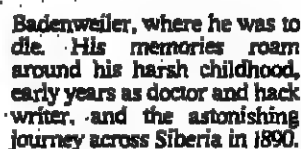
Pennington walks into view from the darkness at the rear of the stage, supporting himself on a knobby black cane, trimly bearded, pince-nez



clipped to the bridge of his nose. Open trunks are scattered across the stage, and in the course of the evening he packs books and other small objects into them, as if about to set off for Yalta, where he lived the last years of his life, or

Badenweiler, where he was to die. His memories roam around his harsh childhood, early years as doctor and hack writer, and the astonishing journey across Siberia in 1890. Presenting the hallucinations in his story *The Black Monk* as being the dying Chekhov's own experience is effective, but so is Pennington's rumour throughout, his light voice caressing us with precise, vivid descriptions, so courteously spoken, and

where pessimistic nonetheless crossed by shafts of comic observation. He can be tart about the earnestness of Dostoevsky, passionately distressed when obliged to witness brutality, and evidently an excellent teller of jokes. The mosaic Pennington assembles from the mass of Chekhov material is the portrait of a man for all seasons.



clipped to the bridge of his nose. Open trunks are scattered across the stage, and in the course of the evening he packs books and other small objects into them, as if about to set off for Yalta, where he lived the last years of his life, or

Badenweiler, where he was to die. His memories roam around his harsh childhood, early years as doctor and hack writer, and the astonishing journey across Siberia in 1890. Presenting the hallucinations in his story *The Black Monk* as being the dying Chekhov's own experience is effective, but so is Pennington's rumour throughout, his light voice caressing us with precise, vivid descriptions, so courteously spoken, and

where pessimistic nonetheless crossed by shafts of comic observation. He can be tart about the earnestness of Dostoevsky, passionately distressed when obliged to witness brutality, and evidently an excellent teller of jokes. The mosaic Pennington assembles from the mass of Chekhov material is the portrait of a man for all seasons.

where pessimistic nonetheless crossed by shafts of comic observation.

He can be tart about the earnestness of Dostoevsky, passionately distressed when obliged to witness brutality, and evidently an excellent teller of jokes. The mosaic Pennington assembles from the mass of Chekhov material is the portrait of a man for all seasons.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## Where all is for the worst

THE first mistake that Alan Ayckbourn's characters make is getting born. Parents are a disaster and so, on the whole, is the world. The second mistake is exercising free will, for it regularly lands Ayckbourn's characters in relationships. Often they get married, which is a still graver error, for "whoever you decide to share your life with invariably turns out to be the worst possible choice".

The speaker is Robert McBain's grumpy old Edward Grey, who may be trying to kill his wife by tampering with her gas stove and electric blanket. In turn, Auriol Smith's placid, reproachful Enima may be slipping bits of broken glass into his sandwiches. But it is their three daughters who are the main focus of Ayckbourn's comic pessimism. Suppose they had formed different attachments. Would those still be the "worst possible choices"?



Family Circles puts Edward's dictum to the test. Aggressive Polly, fussy Jenny and subversive Deirdre turn up for their parents' predictably miserable wedding anniversary, their three men in tow; but, as scene succeeds scene, Oliver, David and James change partners until each has run an entire gamut of Gray sisters. And by the end it is difficult to say which is the least worst pairing.

The play dates from 1970, had its first London showing at the Orange Tree in 1978, was revived there last December, and undeniably merits a summer outing. It is not top-notch Ayckbourn, not *Absurd Person Singular*, not *Just Between Ourselves*. But if we hadn't been spoilt by those pieces, we would surely regard it as a remarkable blend

of technical bravura and funny-gum observation.

Joanne Mitchell's Jenny is always pregnant and harried. True Clarke's Polly, childless and always angry, gives Oliver the hardest time. Emma Gregory's Deirdre gets spectacularly drunk when she is married to David. The problem with the play remains its last scene, which occurs the morning after an offstage celebration that apparently ended with horrified fellow-diners watching the family like gawpers at the monkey-house. This is a free-for-all in which personalities and (hence) personalities change with baffling, too baffling, frequency. But at least there is no missing the final point. "If they can just keep working at their marriages," says Mother wistfully. "Disastrous," grunts Father. And Father knows best.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## Saviour the Royal Ballet never had

DANCE: John Percival on the choreographer John Cranko, a genius cut down in his prime

And Juliet. He persuaded Benjamin Britten and John Piper to collaborate with him in mounting the first three-act ballet with British music, choreography and design. The *Princess of the Pagodas*. He directed opera, formed his own small company for a summer season — and still found time to write and direct a long-running revue, *Cranks*. Even with that track record, Cranko felt himself frustrated for lack of work, and in 1961 accepted an invitation to direct the ballet in Stuttgart. It had

been a minor although respectable troupe in a theatre dominated by opera. Over the next eight years Cranko built up both the repertoire and the dancers to the point that when the Stuttgart Ballet gave its first New York season at the Metropolitan Opera House, it enjoyed what *The New York Times* critic Clive Barnes described as "a great, roaring, shouting success".

Cranko's "ballet miracle", as it was dubbed by the German press, produced some of the best ballets of his time.



The newly famous John Cranko at home in the late 1950s

He had a special flair for big dramatic works, but we must not forget that he made many subtle and original shorter works, among them his delicate Debussy suite *Brouillards*, the best of all stagings of Stravinsky's *Jeux de cartes*, and *Poème de l'enfance* for Margot Fonteyn, giving her, at 51, the chance for the first time to play a fully mature woman, instead of the usual run of balletic "young girls".

But Cranko never confined his interest to his own choreography. He gave MacMillan opportunities to create works, including his masterpiece *Song of the Earth*, after Covent Garden had vetoed it. It was Cranko, in fact, who had first nudged MacMillan towards trying choreography, and a whole generation of new ballet-makers grew up in his Stuttgart company, the most notable being Jiri Kylian and John Neumeier. "Just to be in that creative atmosphere was exciting," Kylian said. "John gave people chances and made them grow."

Similarly, he had a tremendous gift for spotting potential in a dancer and bringing it out. Famously, he found his muse, Marcia Haydée, when she applied for a corps de ballet vacancy, and persuaded the management to give her a contract as a ballerina. She and the two unknown young men who became her regular partners, Egon Madsen and Richard Cragun, grew into great dancers under Cranko's inspiration.

So just consider what Cranko might have done for the Royal Ballet. Heaven knows it could do with some of his boldness in lateral thinking to overcome — or, better, to have prevented — the plight in which it now finds itself.

TISH HOPES



A young Prince becomes King and a great adventure begins...

# Henry V

by William Shakespeare

STRAFORD-UPON-AVON 5 - 27 Sept  
Royal Shakespeare Theatre  
01789 295623

LONDON 4 - 22 Nov  
Barbican Theatre  
0171 638 8891

UK TOUR  
Manchester 30 Sept - 4 Oct  
Palace Theatre  
0161 242 2503

Canterbury 14 - 18 Oct  
Marlowe Theatre  
01227 787 787

Nottingham 21 - 25 Oct  
Theatre Royal  
01603 630 000  
(postal/fax booking opens 1 September)

Bradford 28 Oct - 1 Nov  
Alhambra  
01274 752000

Glasgow 25 - 29 Nov  
Theatre Royal  
0141 332 9000

Bath 2 - 6 Dec  
Theatre Royal  
01225 448844  
(postal booking opens 16 September)

Woking 9 - 13 Dec  
New Victoria Theatre  
01483 761144

RSC  
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY



## EDINBURGH

Scottish Opera presents the original 1912 version of Strauss's opera, *Arlecchino* and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, which was first performed at the Festival in 1950. With Anna Evans in the title role, John Horton Murray as Barbiere, and Lisa Saker as Zerlina, sung in German with English subtitles (Edinburgh Festival, 1997, Friday and Saturday, 7.15pm). In the Queen's Hall, at 2.15pm, there is an opportunity to listen to an archive recording of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's performance of conductor Sir William Walton's *Piano Concerto* and the *Cello Concerto* (soloist Pierre Fournier), at the 1959 Edinburgh Festival.

At 8pm in the Usher Hall, the charismatic Welsh baritone Bryn Terfel performs a programme of songs by Schubert and Fauré, accompanied by Malcolm Marshall on the piano. Festival box office (011 225 5138).

Fringe events include *Kash Kabaret's* *Three Point Turn* — an evening of cabaret, ragged songs and fractured dances — at the Gilded Ballroom (Venue 36, 8.30pm, until August 29). *Teatrul de la Jalea* (Venue 7, 8pm), as part of the New Music Festival, and the Cambridge Opera Group performs *Lennon* (Venue 34, 10.15pm). *Chor Duty* plays an actor turned ventriloquist in *Life and Death* in Milton Keynes. Fringe box office (011 225 5138).

## LONDON

ISAC PHONOS: Ormó Vánska conducts the Mahalaud University Choir and the BBC Scottish Symphony

## TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Mazzy

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

SEVEN — *THESE OF BLACK* — Sunat performance by seven actors from Merz, North East India, by the side of the Thames. Usher, St James's Palace, London SW1 (0171-589 1178). Tonight, 8pm.

THE MAIDS TRAGEDY: Lucy Bailey directs Nicholas in *Protest* as the victim

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

SEVEN — *THESE OF BLACK* — Sunat performance by seven actors from Merz, North East India, by the side of the Thames. Usher, St James's Palace, London SW1 (0171-589 1178). Tonight, 8pm.

THE MAIDS TRAGEDY: Lucy Bailey directs Nicholas in *Protest* as the victim

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

Orchestra in an all-Sibelius programme. The concert begins with the London premiere of *The Wood Nymph*, followed by *Lindorff* and, after the interval, the choral epic, *Kullavirta*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 9212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

## OPERA: Spanish fire fails to ignite, but Donizetti smoulders with drama



Francesca Masclans (Susana), Carles Canut (Don Hilarión) and Rosa Galinda (Casta) do their best with a weak libretto

## Limping passions

The last time zarzuela came to Edinburgh, eight years ago, it flopped — and that was Torroba's *La Chulapona*, one of the most distinguished examples of the kind, in a production by the Teatro Zarzuela itself. It would be a severe judge who would rule from that, however, that our dreams of importing popular theatre, vibrant with Spanish rhythms and burning with sun-drenched passion, are all in vain and should henceforth be resisted.

The problem, though, is that zarzuela is not really like that. It takes an Albeiz or a Falla to get to the vital heart of Spanish music, and they didn't write zarzuelas. The composers who did write them turned out some pretty tame stuff for some very ordinary libretti. Tomas Breton's score for *La Verbena de la Paloma* (The

IF an "authentic" *Lucia*, with period instruments, Donizetti's original keys restored, and that deeply unauthentic gladiatorial contest for soprano and flute (no one seems to know who wrote it, but it certainly wasn't Donizetti) expunged, sounds in any way like a bloodless academic exercise, that would be to reckon without Sir Charles Mackerras. There was nothing the least vegetarian about Sunday's concert, quite the opposite: it was an evening of bright, operatic music pulsating with drama and a thoroughly worthy tribute to the composer in his bicentennial year.

The Harrower Band's gussy playing striped decades of wariness from the score with sound that was full-blooded there were five double-basses — yet wonderfully "rough" in the best sense. Slack bass drum and timpani brought their own special rattle, the valveless horns were encouraged to whoop and rasp in the public scenes (but played exquisitely for Edgardo's final aria), and Mackerras drew all the latent drama from the supple string section in those nervy, tense accompaniment figures. The sheer violence of the second-act finale and

Donizetti's original keys — and you will gather that there has to be more to *Lucia* than just good singing, which was also generously in evidence.

The Hungarian soprano Andrea-Rose (Lucia) scored a great success with the audience. Her voice was a little vinegary to start with, but filled out nicely for the Mad Scene, where her technique proved fully equal to the composer's demands (beautifully pearly chromatic scales). The hypercritical of whom that she was, a little monochromatic, her response to words a little generalised. Bruce Ford (Edgardo) seems set to inherit the mantle of Alfredo Kraus in this repertoire; his musicianship and the way he lives every single line of the role place him on that exalted level. Anthony Michaels-Moore's command of the harpist Angela Moore's lute concerto in the Fountain Scene and the sensitivity of Martin Rocco's (authentic) flute obbligato should be mentioned, as well as the force with which the percussionist Kate Eyre whacked Lucia's funeral bell — the Last Judgment seemed just round the corner. Add the wealth of shuddering *ponticello* strings, woodwind that "spoke" much more expressively in

Donizetti's original keys — and you will gather that there has to be more to *Lucia* than just good singing, which was also generously in evidence.

The Hungarian soprano Andrea-Rose (Lucia) scored a great success with the audience. Her voice was a little vinegary to start with, but filled out nicely for the Mad Scene, where her technique proved fully equal to the composer's demands (beautifully pearly chromatic scales). The hypercritical of whom that she was, a little monochromatic, her response to words a little generalised. Bruce Ford (Edgardo) seems set to inherit the mantle of Alfredo Kraus in this repertoire; his musicianship and the way he lives every single line of the role place him on that exalted level. Anthony Michaels-Moore's command of the harpist Angela Moore's lute concerto in the Fountain Scene and the sensitivity of Martin Rocco's (authentic) flute obbligato should be mentioned, as well as the force with which the percussionist Kate Eyre whacked Lucia's funeral bell — the Last Judgment seemed just round the corner. Add the wealth of shuddering *ponticello* strings, woodwind that "spoke" much more expressively in

## Silver screen schmalz

THE idea for a *Romeo and Juliet* ballet originally came in the 1930s from Sergei Radlov, artistic director of the Mariinsky Theatre; after the war, the idea was first performed at the Kirov in 1940. So the choice of the complete ballet music was an apt one for the Kirov Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre as it bowed out of Edinburgh.

Four acts, nine scenes, 52 numbers. Three hours. At times it felt like it — particularly when the orchestra kept the audience waiting for a good ten minutes at the start of each half. But the trick lies in the

## CONCERT

sensing out of the grand design: both conductor and audience must pace themselves through Prokofiev's dramaturgy of merged memories, allusions, anticipation and recall. Valery Gergiev certainly did his bit. The forceful, dramatic progression written into each scene, preventing their coming from being merely episodic, was motivated from the very start of the score. In the first act alone, Gergiev's deft changes of metre and tempo were thrilling to experience — those earth tremors of rhythmic life which had caused the original dancers so much anxiety.

Sometimes they would be sensed in a split second of rubato — a mere flicker of a nerve in one of Juliet's themes, the shudder of bow on string in preparation for the ball; or the way in which the shudder of death would turn into the upbeat of revenge. Gergiev was an uncompromising dancing master too: the Gavotte was sturdy, even laconic; the Folk Dances rough-hewn.

By contrast, the schmalz in this silver-screen of a score was used so judiciously by the unmistakably Russian style of cello playing, and the depth of resonance in the strings, that their corporate muscle freely in the service of the Usher Hall. It was exciting to hear the highest notes of the strings, the glinting bright and true each round.

The discursive, slightly smoky sound of the Kirov's flutes brought a particular poignancy to a particular melody which harked the ball and returns, with increasing significance in Acts II and III. And when the flute appeared as stark ascending in the scene in Friar Laurence's Cell, it created a portentous nuptial frisson of anticipation, just as the orchestra's equally distinctive principal clarinet captured up a chilling reminiscence of the Love Dance as life finally expired.

RODNEY MILNES

HILARY FINCH

RODNEY MILNES

HILARY FINCH

RODNEY MILNES

HILARY FINCH



Abbeys and lodges are all the rage with those seeking period apartments. One can even find shelter in an asylum

# Winged houses take off



The Grade I listed Stoneleigh Abbey, which dates back to the 12th century, has been restored by the conversion guru Kit Martin

Large period country houses around the country are being converted into wings or large apartments, and buyers are flocking to them. The country house is no longer a relic of a bygone era, but a place where people want to live. Many of these houses have fallen into disrepair, or have become too big to be considered a single residence.

In Lange of Hamber in Hoxton, Devon, feel there is a real market for wings and country-house apartments. "People like the idea of living in a grand country house and are more open-minded about what they choose, particularly with the storage of marvellous country-houses on the market at the moment," he says.

Philip Blanchard of John D Wood in Lymington, Hampshire says such developments are one solution to current shortages.

Stephen Briegleb of Allen Briegleb in Putney, southwest London, agrees. "Developers used to have problems finding the right types of property and selling the concept," he explains. "But this is no longer the case, and leading housebuilders such as Try Homes and Berkeley Homes are moving into this market."

**A portion of a country house offers the things that appeal to people: high ceilings, history**

to meet the incredible demand for this type of property. This is fuelled by eager London buyers and those looking to maintain and secure second homes, or downsizing. "A portion of a country house or a converted apartment offers all the things that appeal to people: high ceilings and well-proportioned

rooms. There is often a bit of history attached, as well as access to beautiful grounds and gardens." One such scheme is the conversion of Grade I listed Stoneleigh Abbey, which dates from the 12th century, by Kit Martin, something of a restoration and conversion guru. The abbey fell into ruin during the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century, and rebuilt as a house by the then Lord Leigh in 1561. The Leigh family lived in the house until 1994 and the abbey was the childhood home of Jane Austen's mother.

The 18th-century west wing and the Grade II listed Repton parkland will be restored by the newly formed Stoneleigh Abbey Preservation Trust and opened to the public. Meanwhile, the south, east and laundry wings are being turned into private homes. Knight-Frank (01789 297735) is

offering six houses in the first phase, with two from the east wing. One, the Jacobean House, is going for £525,000. It has a dining room lined with 17th-century leather wall hangings and a Jacobean staircase.

Many other schemes are afoot, each with its own unique features and often involving much sympathetic restoration. Grade II listed Great Bowden Hall, near Market Harborough, has been restored and transformed into seven apartments by Enterprise Heritage, after a fire and years of neglect. Prices start from £107,000. Contact Savills (01780 766222).

Maristow, a Grade II listed 18th-century house near Plymouth, is another Kit Martin project, with the main house divided into six houses. Knight Frank (01392 433111) is handling the sales. Similarly, Grade II listed Georgian Widworthy Court, built by G.S. Repton in 1830, has been converted into 14

## Sanatorium restored to full health

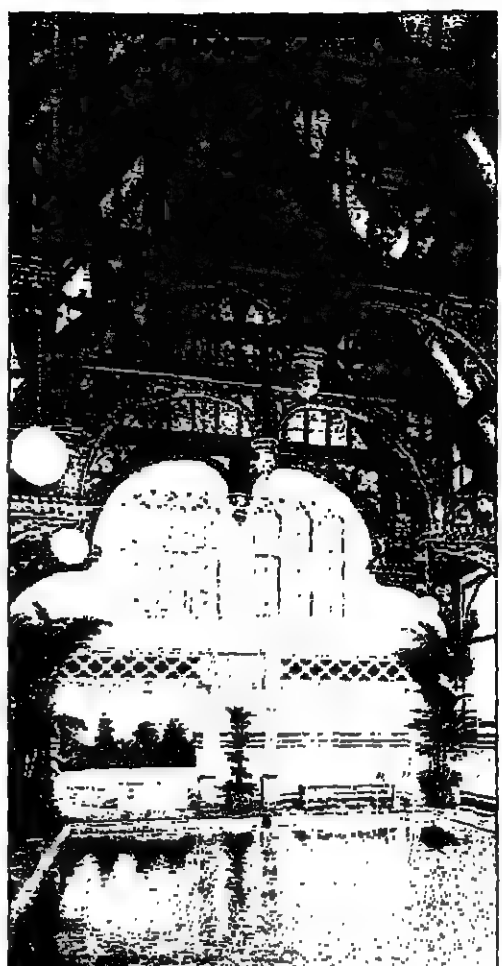
Residents of Crossland House at Virginia Water in Surrey will be able to live in "houses" as opposed to the more usual "apartments". Octagon, the building company behind the redevelopment of the property, a Grade I listed Victorian Gothic building, hopes to complete work in the main hall of the building by Christmas.

Crossland House was the centrepiece of the Holloway Sanatorium and was the creation of Thomas Holloway and his architect, William Crossland. In September 1871, Holloway declared that he intended building an asylum for 200 paying patients. When the building was opened in 1885 by the Prince and Princess of Wales, it had cost the equivalent of about £10 million.

Octagon has restored the building from a derelict state and this has allowed it to build interiors from the ground up. As well as the houses that remain in the west wing of the main building, there are a further 190 new houses and apartments on the 24-acre estate.

All residents will have access to the leisure complex, which includes a multi-purpose hall, tennis court and gym. A swimming pool is housed in what was the library, under a vaulted roof almost restored to its original splendour. Muted tones, rather than the bright colours favoured by the Victorians, were used. Each property will have spaces for two or three cars.

KATHERINE BERGEN  
Octagon sales office, Virginia Park, 01344 844022



Crossland's dining room now houses the pool

apartments, from about £70,000. John D Wood (01962 863131) and Jackson-Stops & Staff (01823 325144).

**The Jacobean House has 17th-century leather wall hangings**

into mews-style properties. The Twenties house, which belonged to Lord and Lady Peel, boasts a listed double helix staircase and formal knot garden, recently restored by Berkeley Homes.

Grade II listed Burford Lodge, near Dorchester, once home to the Barclay family, is another Berkeley

scheme (01932 576500). It, too, will have new buildings, while the lodge itself, built in 1786 and nestled against Box Hill, has been transformed into eight apartments, from £239,950 to £325,000.

Berkeley Homes (01250 814314) is converting Leyside Park, in East Meon, Hampshire, to four wings, as well as adding some buildings in the grounds and converting stables

find another wing. Luckily, several are available, for buyers or renters. The main portion of Haremore Hall, home of Jacqueline Lady Killmer, is up for rent, near Egham, Surrey. The Grade I listed Jacobean house, dating from the 16th century, retains many of its original features, including a great hall with Tudor roses carved on its ceiling. Agents Egerton (0171 493 0676) is looking for a rent of around £2,000 a week, for one year.

The East Wing of Eyvie Castle, near Aberdeen, is up for rent for £1,500 a month through Strutt & Parker (01330 824888), on the instructions of the National Trust for Scotland. The towers which form the East Wing were built in the 14th and 17th centuries respectively. The castle is open to the public from May to September, so tenants will have some obligations and responsibilities.

AMANDA LOOSE

TO ADVERTISE CALL:  
0171 481 1986 (TRADE)  
0171 481 4000 (PRIVATE)

## PROPERTY

FAX:  
0171 782 7828 (TRADE)  
0171 782 7799 (PRIVATE)

**NORTH OF THE THAMES**

**WIMBORNE** 1990s 3 bed house, 2000 sq ft, 1000 sq ft garden, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft pub, 1000 sq ft hotel, 1000 sq ft office, 1000 sq ft shop, 1000 sq ft warehouse, 1000 sq ft factory, 1000 sq ft workshop, 1000 sq ft garage, 1000 sq ft driveway, 1000 sq ft parking, 1000 sq ft storage, 1000 sq ft shed, 1000 sq ft outbuilding, 1000 sq ft fence, 1000 sq ft gate, 1000 sq ft wall, 1000 sq ft path, 1000 sq ft lawn, 1000 sq ft trees, 1000 sq ft shrubs, 1000 sq ft plants, 1000 sq ft flowers, 1000 sq ft vegetables, 1000 sq ft fruit, 1000 sq ft herbs, 1000 sq ft spices, 1000 sq ft oils, 1000 sq ft vinegars, 1000 sq ft wines, 1000 sq ft beers, 1000 sq ft spirits, 1000 sq ft confectionery, 1000 sq ft bakery, 1000 sq ft butchery, 1000 sq ft fishmongery, 1000 sq ft delicatessen, 1000 sq ft cafe, 1000 sq ft restaurant, 1000 sq ft







Telephone:  
0171 680 6806

# Crème de la Crème

Fax:  
0171 782 7586

## A support role at the heart of Communications

Administration  
Assistant

c. £15k

Central London  
6 month contract

57  
97

### CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION

Unbiased Reviews. Unbiased Results.

Consumers' Association publishes the Which? stable of magazines is enjoying its 40th anniversary this year. We have spent this entire time campaigning on behalf of the consumer, and our Legal Affairs and Public Relations departments have never been busier. It's here that we can offer an enthusiastic and hard working person, with good secretarial and administrative skills, the opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the team's performance.

Your duties will cover everything from carrying out general office work to organising meetings, helping with projects, and producing computer presentations. You should have at least 6 months' experience working within a diverse, fast moving office environment and good organisational skills. Fast, accurate typing and familiarity with WordPerfect are essential. You also need the ability to develop good working relationships and express yourself well in speech and writing. Experience of working in a legal environment would be advantageous.

In addition to your salary, you will receive 28 days' holiday pro rata. If that describes you, please send your CV to Susan Harridge, Consumers' Association, 2 Marylebone Road, London NW1 4JR. Please quote reference 1590. Closing date: 1st September 1997.

### OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

International software company seeks administrator to help run a new office in the City.

Responsibilities will include everything from reception duties and looking after visitors to organising travel arrangements and managing office supplies. An enthusiastic, flexible, 'can do' approach is important.

There is a leading edge financial solutions provider whose clients include some of the world's most successful organisations. The company employs 20 people and has offices across Europe.

The package offered will reflect the quality of the candidate.

Please send a CV with covering letter and salary details to Tom Coates, Trema Treasury Management, 1 Northumberland Avenue, Trafalgar Square, London, WC2N 5BW or e-mail tom.coates@trema.com

### S.O.S. Employment Agency

Bermuda.

Hiring immediately:

Executive Secretaries for

Temporary Assignments.

Applicants must have excellent typing and computer skills, legal experience and/or shorthand a definite asset. Min. 5 years secretarial experience.

Renewable one-year work periods. Permanent positions available after six months' interim, with annual salary of US\$30,000.

Please fax your resume to (441) 295-1495, ext. Jody Joblin. Interviewing in London shortly. For more information, please include return conditional fax number.

### Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP

PHAW, an American law firm with offices from California to New York, requires a secretary for a major associate in their newly opened London office. Only candidates with good legal experience, excellent skills using Word 97 and an enquiring mind will be considered. Salary will be a good knowledge of German and Westlaw/WordPerfect 7 will bring the reward!

Apply in writing to The Administrator, Mrs Jackie Bower, Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP, 60 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9EA.

### PA TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Chief Executive of small plc based in Slough seeks a confident, individual to work as his Personal Assistant. Must have commitment, initiative, flexibility and excellent keyboard skills. Modern languages and shorthand a distinct advantage. Excellent package. Interested?

Call Fay Farrington on 01828 807217

### PA TO DIRECTOR AND HOME DEPARTMENT

Of this busy and prestigious Knightbridge Estate Agents. Well spoken, computer literate and able to deal with the public required. Salary: Negotiable.

CVs in the first instance to: Amanda Craig, Hemptons International, 168 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, London, SW3 1HW. Tel: 0171 584 2044.

### PA/Administrator, City Experience

20k+, London

Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm.

Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm.

Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm.

Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm.

Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm.

Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm.

Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm.

Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm.

Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm.

Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm.

Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm.

Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm.

Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm.

Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm.

Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm.

Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm. Should be a person with previous office for NYC firm.

### BILINGUAL SECRETARY TO PARTNER

Young, dynamic & charming partner of US Law firm currently seeks Italian speaking secretary, English mother tongue. Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to deal with confidential matters in a tactful, discreet and diplomatic manner. Legal experience preferred, accurate and fast WP skills are imperative (WPS 1.1 DOS) together with the ability to work under pressure. Salary based on experience with excellent benefits.

Please Reply to Box No 6918

### Personal Assistant to Chairman and Group Directors.

High calibre, flexible experienced PA required with good shorthand and Word for the West End multi-faceted group involved in property, construction, agriculture, mining and advertising. Interesting and varied work. A demanding role. Experience legal/financial company an asset but not essential.

Please apply with CV to Jeff Vickers DPM Group Ltd 32 Broadwick Street London W1V 1PL.

### HARLEY STREET

Super-efficient PA to help busy surgeon's practice. P/T possible. Reluctant to accept overseas work. Must enjoy hectic pace and team working.

For CV/181 975 1272 or telephone 0181 242 0445

### WANT TO BE A CITY PLAYER?

E15K + REGULAR HOURS + BRILLIANT BENS This is your chance to join one of the City's leading investment management companies. Reserved for not only their professional but friendly approach, they can offer you superb career and training opportunities as well as a good busy team role. Forget huge hours and pressure - this is a role where you can make a difference in the creation of new products and services. Call us now if you have a year's secretarial experience and 50wpm typing.

WEST END WONDER E22K + BENS Fast up of seeing all those great jobs with great salaries being based in the City? Stop your searching, we have a Director level position based in the heart of the West End. If you would flourish within a small company set up, have 100wpm shorthand with good MS Office and are flexible on overtime - this really is for you.

PERFECTLY POWERPOINT E18K + BENS Calling all Powerpoint enthusiasts! Would you enjoy a steady team role that offers you the opportunity to extend your creative talents on a regular basis? This world class insurance broker can offer you involvement, the chance to really make a difference in the creation of new products and services and all the benefits that come with working for a market leader.

EXPERIENCED PA/SECRETARY Administrator required for one partner in fast growing strategic communications consultancy based in Finsbury Park. Must have excellent organisational and IT skills, good references and a good sense of humour. Salary: £18,000 - £22,000. Please reply to box no 6918.

### PA/DESIGN TEAM SECRETARY

Excellent WP skills (W4W) and professional telephone manner essential.

PART TIME PROJECT COSTING ASSISTANT Must be computer literate, accurate and self motivated.

Please write enclosing your CV to: Christine Cole, Derek Lovejoy Partnership, 8-11 Denbigh House, London SW1V 2NQ

Derek Lovejoy Partnership is an equal opportunities employer

### SEC IN VICTORIA

E16K + BENS Finance company requires presentation secretary. Working in a busy environment you will be producing presentation and OHP material. Full training on Powerpoint. All you need is 60wpm typing and good Word 6 knowledge. Benefits include 25 days holiday, PRP, STI, Life Assurance, Dental Care, LVS...the list goes on.

Call Job Selection on 0171 628 0085

### PA to SENIOR PARTNER REQUIRED FOR CHARTERED SURVEYORS

This position would suit a self-reliant, well organised lady, with good typing skills, a cheerful disposition and a flexible approach. A minimum of 5 years' experience together with knowledge of W4W 6.0 is required. A/C package advantageous.

ENeg - a/c. Please send CV, together with notification of current salary, to: Sinead Collins, 40 Drury Lane, London WC2B 5SR (No agencies)

Applicants by 27th August

### City Salary

West End Job

Highly regarded Executive Search Consultancy in exclusive part of the West End is very interested in hearing from you if you have a City background gained in the Financial Services industry. A different environment awaits: friendly colleagues, an appreciative boss, normal hours and a first class salary! You have to have strong customer focus, good attention to detail and a proactive nature. On offer is a basic salary of at least £25,000 plus an incentive bonus. For further information please call Cathie Rowlands.

Sueva Doughty Recruitment 39A Curzon Street London W1V 7BP Tel: 0171-491 7611 Fax: 0171-491 7822

### PA to SENIOR PARTNER REQUIRED FOR CHARTERED SURVEYORS

This position would suit a self-reliant, well organised lady, with good typing skills, a cheerful disposition and a flexible approach. A minimum of 5 years' experience together with knowledge of W4W 6.0 is required. A/C package advantageous.

ENeg - a/c. Please send CV, together with notification of current salary, to: Sinead Collins, 40 Drury Lane, London WC2B 5SR (No agencies)

Applicants by 27th August

### PA to SENIOR PARTNER REQUIRED FOR CHARTERED SURVEYORS

This position would suit a self-reliant, well organised lady, with good typing skills, a cheerful disposition and a flexible approach. A minimum of 5 years' experience together with knowledge of W4W 6.0 is required. A/C package advantageous.

ENeg - a/c. Please send CV, together with notification of current salary, to: Sinead Collins, 40 Drury Lane, London WC2B 5SR (No agencies)

## PA TO HR DIRECTOR

CIRCA £22,000 PLUS EXCELLENT BENEFITS WATERLOO

■ If a FT-SE quoted plc, is the UK's leading venture capital provider to unquoted companies and is committed to extending its position to become Europe's leading specialist investor through its network of European offices.

■ As PA to the HR Director, key aspects of the role will be: to manage a high volume of day-to-day business by e-mail, correspondence and telephone; the diary management and organisation of a full and tight schedule of meetings, overseas trips and business commitments; to act as the focal point of communication between his office and a wide range of internal and external contacts for which excellent interpersonal skills are essential.

■ You would be the critical information filter, anticipating needs, scheduling effective plans and prioritising on your own initiative. An important aspect of the role will be to attend and contribute to projects, for the UK and Continental Europe upon which the HR Director is engaged and to be the principal assistant, co-ordinator and progress chaser for such projects.

■ A high level of intellect supported by excellent secretarial and PC skills, together with a flexible approach to unpredictable and occasional long hours, is essential for this unusually challenging position.

Please write with full resume and salary history to:

Robert Gregory, HR Director, 31 plc, 51 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8XP.

WE WANT YOU TO SUCCEED

### EXEC. SECRETARY BASED IN LONDON (WC2) BUT TRAVELLING TO TOKYO TO WORK 3 OR 4 TIMES A YEAR

Experienced Sec. 25+ years secretarial experience and typing at a minimum to support our Chief Executive with domestic and overseas travel.

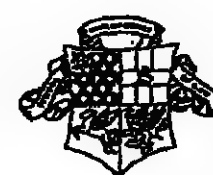
Must be able to prioritise, deliver under pressure and meet deadlines. Overseas travel will be necessary.

Salary class £20,000 p.a. For CV with covering letter to 0171-436-7919. (No Agencies)

### RECEPTIONIST/DEPARTMENTAL SECRETARY

Required for busy multi-department of UK's largest direct marketing agency. Must be well-presented, friendly and real team player. Ideal role for 1st/2nd jobber with initiative.

50wpm/W4W, Powerpoint/Excel etc. Salary class £12,000 + bonus. For CV to 0171 311 4353 or call Cathy Jones on 0171 311 4354.



THE INNS OF COURT SCHOOL OF LAW

### PA TO THE PRINCIPAL

(Salary range £17,740 - £20,429)

The Inns of Court School of Law provides education and training for the Bar and offers a Bar Vocational Course in both full and part time mode. The school has recently gained independent status and is one of seven university law schools and independent institutions to be validated by the Bar Council. The School is a charitable institution employing some 82 staff.

A challenging opportunity has arisen for an experienced PA to manage the office of the new Principal who takes up his appointment on 1 September 1997. The role will include responsibility for providing secretarial and administrative support to the Principal, undertaking research and compiling information.

The ideal candidate will have relevant PA/Secretarial experience, excellent typing and audio-typing skills and have the ability to draft correspondence. Excellent communication and organisational skills are essential.

Application forms and further details are available from the Personnel Office, The Inns of Court School of Law, 4 Gray's Inn Place London, WC1R 5DX (Tel: 0171 404 5787).

CLOSING DATE: 12 September 1997.

### SURGERY & ANAESTHESIA

### Senior Departmental Secretary/PA (Grade 5)

SALARY C. £18K

We require a person to be Senior Departmental Secretary/PA to the Professor of Vascular Surgery at our St Thomas's Campus.

You should have good personal computer and organisational skills combined with strong interpersonal skills and an ability to motivate and manage other staff.

For further details please send an A4 size SAE, clearly indicating ref no. T/SUR/50/217 on the envelope to: UMDS Personnel Department, Medical School Office, St Thomas's Campus, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH. Closing date: 18th September 1997.

Promoting excellence in teaching, learning & research. Equality of Opportunity is School Policy.



### PERSONAL SECRETARY

Required for the Head of a thriving, independent educational establishment, located close to Windsor, to commence as soon as possible.

This demanding position calls for a professional person who understands loyalty, integrity and discretion and is willing to work long hours. The person appointed will require to be totally committed. The ability to anticipate and motivate other staff is essential. A thorough working knowledge of Microsoft Office 97 is a pre-requisite. Neither age nor experience are relevant; energy, dedication and ability are.

The salary will be commensurate with the responsibilities. Other benefits will be advanced to interview.

If you are ambitious and looking for a real challenge, send your letter of application, in your own handwriting, together with a detailed curriculum vitae, to The Registrar, Delegation House, 38 Hart Street, Heston on Thames, EC9 2AL, no later than Tuesday, 2 September 1997. Final interviews will be held on Tuesday, 9 September 1997.

The salary will be commensurate with the responsibilities. Other benefits will be advanced to interview.

If you are ambitious and looking for a real challenge, send your letter of application, in your own handwriting, together with a detailed curriculum vitae, to The Registrar, Delegation House, 38 Hart Street, Heston on Thames, EC9 2AL, no later than Tuesday, 2 September 1997. Final interviews will be held on Tuesday, 9 September 1997.

The salary will be commensurate with the responsibilities. Other benefits will be advanced to interview.

If you are ambitious and looking for a real challenge, send your letter of application, in your own handwriting, together with a detailed curriculum vitae, to The Registrar, Delegation House, 38 Hart Street, Heston on Thames, EC9 2AL, no later than Tuesday, 2 September 1997. Final interviews will be held on Tuesday, 9 September 1997.

The salary will be commensurate with the responsibilities. Other benefits will be advanced to interview.

If you are ambitious and looking for a real challenge, send your letter of application, in your own handwriting, together with a detailed curriculum vitae, to The Registrar, Delegation House, 38 Hart Street, Heston on Thames, EC9 2AL, no later than Tuesday, 2 September 1997. Final interviews will be held on Tuesday, 9 September 1997.

The salary will be commensurate with the responsibilities. Other benefits will be advanced to interview.

If you are ambitious and looking for a real challenge, send your letter of application, in your own handwriting, together with a detailed curriculum vitae, to The Registrar, Delegation House, 38 Hart Street, Heston on Thames, EC9 2AL, no later than Tuesday, 2 September 1997. Final interviews will be held on Tuesday, 9 September 1997.

The salary will be commensurate with the responsibilities. Other benefits will be advanced to interview.

If you are ambitious and looking for a real challenge, send your letter of application, in your own handwriting, together with a detailed curriculum vitae, to The Registrar, Delegation House, 38 Hart Street, Heston on Thames, EC9 2AL, no later than Tuesday, 2 September 1997. Final interviews will be held on Tuesday, 9 September 1997.

The salary will be commensurate with the responsibilities. Other benefits will be advanced to interview.

If you are ambitious and looking for a real challenge, send your letter of application, in your own handwriting, together with a detailed curriculum vitae, to The Registrar, Delegation House, 38 Hart Street, Heston on Thames, EC9 2AL, no later than Tuesday, 2 September 1997. Final interviews will be held on Tuesday, 9 September 1997.

The salary will be commensurate with the responsibilities. Other benefits will be advanced to interview.

If you are ambitious and looking for a real challenge, send your letter of application, in your own handwriting, together with a detailed curriculum vitae, to The Registrar, Delegation House, 38 Hart Street, Heston on Thames, EC9 2AL, no later than Tuesday, 2 September 1997. Final interviews will be held on Tuesday, 9 September 1997.

The salary will be commensurate with the responsibilities. Other benefits will be advanced to interview.

If you are ambitious and looking for a real challenge, send your letter of application, in your own handwriting, together with a detailed curriculum vitae, to The Registrar, Delegation House, 38 Hart Street, Heston on Thames, EC9 2AL, no later than Tuesday, 2 September 1997. Final interviews will be held on Tuesday, 9 September 1997.

The salary will be commensurate with the responsibilities. Other benefits will be advanced to interview.

If you are ambitious and looking for a real challenge, send your letter of application, in your own handwriting, together with a detailed curriculum vitae, to The Registrar, Delegation House, 38 Hart Street, Heston on Thames, EC9 2AL, no later than Tuesday, 2 September 1997. Final interviews will be held on Tuesday, 9 September 1997.

The salary will be commensurate with the responsibilities. Other benefits will be advanced to interview.

If you are ambitious and looking for a real challenge, send your letter of application, in your own handwriting, together with a detailed curriculum vitae, to The Registrar, Delegation House, 38 Hart Street, Heston on Thames, EC9 2AL, no later than Tuesday, 2 September 1997. Final interviews will be held on Tuesday, 9 September 1997.

The salary will be commensurate with the responsibilities. Other benefits will be advanced to interview.

If you are ambitious and looking for a real challenge, send your letter of application, in your own handwriting, together with a detailed curriculum vitae, to The Registrar, Delegation House, 38 Hart Street, Heston on Thames, EC9 2AL, no later than Tuesday, 2 September 1997. Final interviews will be held on Tuesday, 9 September 1997.

The salary will be commensurate with the responsibilities. Other benefits will be advanced to interview.

If you are ambitious and looking for a real challenge, send your letter of application, in your own handwriting, together with a detailed curriculum vitae, to The Registrar, Delegation House, 38 Hart Street, Heston on Thames, EC9 2AL, no later than Tuesday, 2 September 1997. Final interviews will be held on Tuesday, 9 September 1997.

The salary will be commensurate with the responsibilities. Other benefits will be advanced to interview.

If you are ambitious and looking for a real challenge, send your letter of application, in your own handwriting, together with a detailed curriculum vitae, to The Registrar, Delegation House, 38 Hart Street, Heston on Thames, EC9 2AL, no later than Tuesday, 2 September 1997. Final interviews will be held on Tuesday, 9 September 1997.

The salary will be commensurate with the responsibilities. Other benefits will be advanced to interview.

If you are ambitious and looking for a real challenge, send your letter of application, in your own handwriting, together with a detailed curriculum vitae, to The Registrar, Delegation House, 38 Hart Street, Heston on Thames, EC9 2AL, no later than Tuesday, 2 September 1997. Final interviews will be held on Tuesday, 9 September 1997.

The salary will be commensurate with the responsibilities. Other benefits will be advanced to interview.

If you are ambitious and looking for a real challenge, send your letter of application, in your own handwriting, together with a detailed curriculum vitae, to The Registrar, Delegation House, 38 Hart Street, Heston on Thames, EC9 2AL, no later than Tuesday, 2 September 1997. Final interviews will be held on Tuesday, 9 September 1997.

### THE CITY GALLERY

Excellent opportunity for a young, enthusiastic secretary/PA to join a fast growing gallery in the heart of the City. CVs to: Mr. J. Smith, The City Gallery, 100 Broad Street, London EC2A 4DP. Tel: 0171 255 0000 Fax: 0171 255 0000

### PA/SEC TO £20K + BONUS

A proactive PA/Sec who will be a real asset to a busy professional. Must be a team player with excellent interpersonal skills. Salary £20K + bonus. For CV to 0171 436 7919.

An ambitious, energetic, outgoing character who would like to develop and achieve. Excellent opportunity with unlimited potential. (Ref: 7018) Tel: 0171 253 7000

### EXECUTIVE PA £20K + BONUS

plus annual bonus. This prestigious international company makes a senior PA with excellent interpersonal skills. 4 years working as Director level essential. Polished, energetic & eager to learn. 25-35 need only apply. Charges Recruitment Tel: 0171 481 1255.

### RECEPTIONIST/TEAM SEC FOR MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY

£12-14k + Bens

UMD Group is a highly successful consulting group with offices in the UK and abroad. We are looking for a friendly, energetic, and motivated person to join our team as a Receptionist/Team Secretary. The role involves answering the phone, taking messages, and providing general administrative support. Salary: £12-14k + Bens. For CV to 0171 436 7919.

For more information please contact Sarah (0171 881 3518), or email your CV and letter to UMD Group (UK) Ltd, 125 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0LP.

### SECRETARY £15,000 Plus Bonus

Required by a leading international property company with WorldWide. Must be ambitious, energetic and show initiative. Please send CV and covering letter to: Mrs Jo Brooker, 23 Cavaye Place, London SW10 9PT Fax: 0171 378 7807







## SWIMMING

## Move to Bath earns Palmer pool jackpot

FROM CRAIG LORD IN SEVILLE

PAUL PALMER'S victory in the 200 metres freestyle on the first day of the European championships here yesterday follows a season of uncertainty in which his coach, Ian Turner, had to coax and cajole his swimmer back into full training after his success in the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year.

The dispute in the most successful partnership in British swimming was settled as the winter turned to spring, but the humour of the crisis was not lost yesterday on Palmer, who is favourite to win the 400 metres here.

He turned to Turner and asked: "Does this mean I can miss the 400 [metres]?" "No, it bloody doesn't,"

came the reply and coach and swimmer shared the laugh.

It was very different in January. As Turner left Heathrow Airport for a training camp in Australia, he believed that the Olympic silver medal-winner in the 400 metres freestyle would be following him within a few days, after a slicing holiday.

Palmer, 22, arrived at the airport, but a delay in his flight gave him time to question what he was about to embark on. As his fellow passengers headed to the departure gate, Palmer turned instead to the car park and back to his family in Lincoln.

He had moved with Turner last autumn from Lincoln to Bath University's elite sports village and has trained permanently in a long-course 50-metre pool for the first time in his swimming career. After

his "psychological blip", Palmer had got back into serious training late in the year.

His last international victory was one of three at the 1991 European junior championships and was followed by three silver medals at senior international level, all over 400 metres.

The third was his Olympic effort, which helped to secure a £14,000 lottery grant for the man who drew the public's attention to the financial plight of British athletes in Atlanta last year.

Palmer yesterday put his victory down to Turner and his move to Bath, which offers full support for elite athletes, and his belief that Turner was able to give up his job as a school teacher and concentrate on coaching full-time.

Palmer believes that the British 4 x 200 metres relay team can win the European title today and that the 400 metres two days later could bring him a third gold medal.

"You know, spirits are high and the team should get the gold. That will be a great boost," he said.

James Salter, who missed the bronze medal by one hundredth of a second in the 200 metres freestyle, behind Palmer, took consolation from his team-mate's words: "I'll just have to make good when it counts for the relay."

Elsewhere for Britain, there were fourth and fifth places in the 100 metres freestyle for Sue Rolph and Karen Pickering. Competing against the might of Germany in the middle two lanes, Sandra Völker and Anja Buschulte, and the experienced Slovakian, Martina Moravcova, the British pair would have had to break Pickering's 1994 national record of



Palmer celebrates his thrilling victory in the 200 metres freestyle in Seville yesterday

55.79sec to challenge for medals. Pickering, 25, did well to set her season's best of 56.13sec for fifth place, suggesting that her back problems, caused by a car crash in the autumn, are over. Rolph, the 19-year-old from Newcastle, clocked 56.09sec to go one place better, finishing 0.71sec adrift of Völker, the winner.

Rolph's performance augurs well

for the 200 metres medley later in the week. She is the third-fastest entrant, although the favourite remains Michelle Smith, the triple Olympic gold medal-winner, from Ireland.

Yesterday, Smith, swimming under her married name of De Bruin, won the 400 metres medley in a battle with a 15-year-old Ukrainian newcomer, Yana Kloch-

kova. The teenager took the lead with 150 metres to go during the breaststroke leg, but Smith fought back to draw level down the first of two freestyle lengths. What followed was a victory of power over technique. Within 20 metres of the turn, the Irishwoman had opened one-second lead and held on until the end, even easing up over the final four metres to win in 4min 42.08sec.

## EQUESTRIANISM

## Change of heart gives Stark his Burghley chance

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

IAN STARK has had an eleven-hour call-up for the British squad for the Pedigree Chum Open European three-day event championships at Burghley next month after a change of heart by Lord and Lady Vestey, the owners of his horse, Arakai.

In a surprise announcement yesterday, Stark — together with Christopher Bartle, Anne-Marie Evans, William Fox-Pitt, Kristina Gifford and Mary King — was named in the squad of six from which the team of four will be chosen. Britain, who have won five out of the past six European championships, are defending the title won in Italy two years' ago.

Stark's chances of selection this year had looked slender when Stanwick Ghost, his leading horse, injured a leg after Badminton and Arakai, the New Zealand thoroughbred on which he was fourth at Badminton, was deemed to be too inexperienced for a championship.

A disappointed Stark decided to have another "chat" with the Vesteyes after the young horse's faultless performance at Auchinleck in Ayrshire last month. "I told them he felt much more grown up and had matured a great deal," Stark said.

The owners' response was to "wait and see" until after Thriestane last weekend, where the long-listed riders were having their final trials. After another superb round there, the Vesteyes — to the delight of Giles Rowell, the chairman of the selectors — confirmed that Arakai was available for selection.

Stark's inclusion is not the only surprise. Gifford, whose General Jock was in the gold medal-winning team at the 1994 world championships, missed Badminton in May, the main selection

trial, because of the 12-year-old gelding's perennial foot problems. Rowell told Gifford that if she could "sort out" the horse's feet and prove his fitness at Gatcombe, she would be considered. Gifford, who lives in Sussex, found an appropriate farrier in Leicester-shire, where she now takes the horse every three weeks. Twelfth place at Gatcombe fulfilled the selectors' second request.

Fox-Pitt and King, members of the Olympic Games squad in Atlanta, are likely to form the nucleus of the team. Bartle, the team dressage trainer is, at 45, the "new boy". Better known for his dressage exploits — he was sixth at the Los Angeles Olympics — his selection on Word Perfect follows his convincing win at Thriestane.

Two notable absentees from the squad are Karen Dixon, who broke her leg at Thriestane, and Pippa Funnell, who will compete as an individual on Bits N Pieces after the latter's disappointing refusal at the water at the final trial.

Funnell's mistake let in the stylish Evans, who competed as an individual at the 1986 world championships and 1989 European championships and now makes a welcome return to the team on Dutch Treat.

"It's a team of tough, experienced riders," Rowell said. It will need to be. Michael Tucker, who has replaced Mark Phillips as course designer this year, unveiled his course yesterday. The 30 uncompromising fences allow little margin for error.

GREAT BRITAIN SQUAD for the Pedigree Chum Open European championships, September 11 to 14: C Bartle (Word Perfect), A-M Evans (Dutch Treat), W Fox-Pitt (Competition), K Gifford (General Jock), M King (Star Appeal), I Stark (Arakai), J Bartle (Star Appeal), P Funnell (Bits N Pieces), C Hurrell (M Boco), G Partridge (Mago Rocco), P Phillips (Star Appeal), T Weston (Last of the Jocks). Reserve: J-P Swales (Polka Dot), J Vee (Baby Free).

## Multilingual Crème

## Languages Galore! City, West End, Docklands

Crème Coddill Multilingual jumps division, has an extensive range of exciting assignments offering you the opportunity to maximise your language skills within a variety of prestigious companies across London.

If you are fluent in any European language, have good systems and can type at 50wpm, please call Zoe for an immediate start on 0171 390 7000

## Crème Coddill

20 YEARS

## Bilingualgroup

Top secretaries at Standard Bank. SEER's Executive positions that integrate international business in France and in English.

All Secretaries and PA's. Vite opportunities for international firms in England and Docklands.

Netherlands Secretaries needed! Netherlands speaking secretaries, bilingual, not willing to work on your own. Look no further, in our customer Netherlands team.

Calling all customer service executives! SEER's Mary Jones, PA, is looking for a PA in London and Home counties. E-mail: jones.mary@seer.co.uk or 0171 493 6166.

BILINGUALGROUP Rec. Co. 49 Moulton St, London W1R 9LA. Tel: 0171 493 6166 Fax: 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. HAST secretaries multi-lingual with good presentation skills for international firms. Call 0171 493 6166.

FULHAM £12,000. Training co-ordinator for dynamic multinational company. Excellent benefits. Must be enthusiastic. Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants on 0171 493 6166.

GRADUATE £15,000 + benefits. back office co-ordinator for multinational company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

LOVE competing and enjoy short-handled work? We have a great opportunity for a short-handled work. Call 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

Capable of working in a fast-paced environment, providing Office services. Tel: 0171 493 6166 contact Andrew Morgan or Fax CV's to 0171 493 6166.

## BOYCE

Brussels/Frankfurt/Zakakhstan £22 - 28K + bens & relocation package

If you have excellent commercial skills and a desire to work for a prestigious international organisation abroad, we have the following opportunities to offer you: Brussels: An experienced legal secretary is needed to support a senior Director in his law firm. French is preferred. 20,000 Franc/month. Frankfurt: Legal secretary with multi and native level experience needed. German useful. Luxembourg: Vied legal secretary position. Audio typing skills and previous legal experience essential. Excellent relocation package offered.

## INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTS IN KENSINGTON

Energetic French Team Secretary required urgently to organize a dynamic multi-national team of architects in a large commercial architecture office in Kensington. French mother tongue, excellent organizing skills, some translation, administration, travel arrangements, 020 86100000 and 020 86100001. Contact Lucy Meakin, Chapman Taylor Partners, 0171 371 3000.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. HAST secretaries multi-lingual with good presentation skills for international firms. Call 0171 493 6166.

FULHAM £12,000. Training co-ordinator for dynamic multinational company. Excellent benefits. Must be enthusiastic. Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants on 0171 493 6166.

GRADUATE £15,000 + benefits. back office co-ordinator for multinational company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

LOVE competing and enjoy short-handled work? We have a great opportunity for a short-handled work. Call 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

Capable of working in a fast-paced environment, providing Office services. Tel: 0171 493 6166 contact Andrew Morgan or Fax CV's to 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

Capable of working in a fast-paced environment, providing Office services. Tel: 0171 493 6166 contact Andrew Morgan or Fax CV's to 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

Capable of working in a fast-paced environment, providing Office services. Tel: 0171 493 6166 contact Andrew Morgan or Fax CV's to 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

Capable of working in a fast-paced environment, providing Office services. Tel: 0171 493 6166 contact Andrew Morgan or Fax CV's to 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

Capable of working in a fast-paced environment, providing Office services. Tel: 0171 493 6166 contact Andrew Morgan or Fax CV's to 0171 493 6166.

## RECEPTION SELECTION

PRIVATE Receptionist £18,000 + 10% bonus. Private Office of a successful company with a reputation for excellence. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

RECEPTIONIST £14,000. City location. Front line role for a successful company. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

## MEDICAL SECRETARIES

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

EXPERIENCED Medical Secretary required for City based GP practice. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

## COURSES

ST JAMES'S COLLEGE

GRADUATE/GAP YEAR INTENSIVE COURSE

12 week Secretarial Course

Typing, MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint

Careers Advisory and Placement Service

23% tax relief available

NEXT START DATE 22 SEPTEMBER 1997

4 Wetherby Gardens, London SW5 0JN

Tel: 0171 373 3852

LONDON'S PREMIER BUSINESS COLLEGE

A Member of The Corporate Services Group plc

ST JAMES'S COLLEGE

GRADUATE/GAP YEAR INTENSIVE COURSE

12 week Secretarial Course

Typing, MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint

Careers Advisory and Placement Service

23% tax relief available

NEXT START DATE 22 SEPTEMBER 1997

4 Wetherby Gardens, London SW5 0JN

Tel: 0171 373 3852

LONDON'S PREMIER BUSINESS COLLEGE

A Member of The Corporate Services Group plc

ST JAMES'S COLLEGE

GRADUATE/GAP YEAR INTENSIVE COURSE

12 week Secretarial Course

## PART TIME VACANCIES

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.

SECRETARY/ADMIN £16,000. Pleasant person. Good communication skills. Excellent benefits. Call 0171 493 6166.















## FOOTBALL

# McCarthy calms Ireland's nerves

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN DUBLIN

IF Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, is feeling the World Cup heat, then he is the master of disguise. As he sat yesterday deep in the bowels of Lansdowne Road, where Ireland play Lithuania tonight in their vital group eight qualifying tie, he spoke calmly and concisely of the task ahead.

Three radio microphones were thrust almost into his face and the journalistic inquisition, though not quite Spanish in its manner, was of an all-embracing and earnest Irish nature.

Yet nothing fazed him. McCarthy was on top of his game, as his players must surely be if they are to beat Lithuania this evening and progress towards the World Cup finals next year.

"If we win, when we win, I think we will go on and take the runners-up spot," he said, silently conceding the obvious that Romania, the group leaders, will automatically reach the finals. It would leave Ireland disputing second place with Lithuania and Macedonia and then, if successful, contemplating a two-legged play-off to complete the French connection. "At the moment, thinking further than the Lithuania game is pointless," he said.

Ireland travel to Iceland and Lithuania next month, which could decide their fate before

they take on Romania, in their concluding fixture, in Dublin on October 11. It could also help to eradicate the shadow of Jack Charlton that McCarthy has had to work under since his appointment 18 months ago.

Charlton's name is rarely mentioned in Ireland press conferences nowadays, for fear of a spiky response, yet

McCarthy has gradually eased the burden of expectation generated by his predecessor, the world's greatest honorary Irishman. His blend of the young — Shay Given, David Connolly and Mark Kennedy — and the old — Andy Townsend, Ray Houghton and Denis Irwin — is beginning to gel.

This one is a massive game, Connolly, 20, Feyenoord's former Watford striker, said. "The Dutch League

starts this weekend, but I'm not really concerned about that yet. Playing against Lithuania is my priority. Everything else is secondary."

McCarthy will not reveal his hand until shortly before kick-off, but Connolly will start up front, probably partnered by Tony Casciaro, another of the more experienced Ireland performers.

Roy Keane, as always, will play a pivotal role in midfield. If the new Manchester United captain is good, Ireland should prosper. If he is bad, if he loses control, anything could happen. He is the only Ireland squad member only one booking away from a World Cup suspension.

"I won't change," Keane said yesterday. "I've come this far because of my attitude and the way I play. If you take that away from me, I'm not the same sort of player."

McCarthy agreed. "I want the lads to commit themselves, I want them to tackle hard," he said, "but I don't want any silly cautions for petulance."

Only then, it would appear, especially if accompanied by unexpected defeat, would he lose his serene countenance.



Dorigo is bound for Torino, subject to a medical

## Souness ends long chase for Dorigo

TONY DORIGO, the Leeds United and former England defender, is expected to leave Elland Road today to link up with Graeme Souness at Torino. Dorigo, 31, has agreed terms with Souness, believed to be £300,000-a-year, and will join the Serie B club subject to a medical today.

Dorigo's move will end a long chase by Souness, the Scot having first tried to sign him when he was manager of

Rangers in the late 1990s and Dorigo was at Chelsea.

Steve Coppell, the Crystal Palace manager, yesterday completed the signing of the Israeli midfielder, Izzik Zohar, from Royal Antwerp, for £1.2 million. Graham Taylor, the Watford manager, has signed the Danish defender, Lars Melvang, on a short-term contract with a view to a permanent move.

## Germany disturbed by simmering discontent

By DAVID MADDOCK

PICTURE this, England, with three straightforward home matches and one undemanding away game remaining, can afford to drop three points and still qualify as group winners for the World Cup finals.

Glenn Hoddle, one suspects, would gratefully accept that, but, sadly for him, it is Germany, not England, who are presented with such a scenario — and yet the Germans are surprisingly unhappy with their lot. There has been talk, admittedly hushed, of a crisis.

There is discontent with the way that Germany have edged towards qualification in group nine. They stand two points behind the leaders, Ukraine, with two matches in hand and can afford to lose against Northern Ireland in Belfast

## GROUP NINE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine	5	2	2	1	11	4	10
Germany	5	2	1	2	11	4	7
Northern Ireland	5	0	2	3	4	12	2
Belgium	5	0	1	4	3	12	1

MATCHES TO COME: Today, N. Ireland v Germany; Tomorrow, Belgium v Germany; Wednesday, Northern Ireland v Belgium; Thursday, Germany v Northern Ireland.

tonight and still reach the finals in France next summer, yet Bertie Vogts, the coach, has been so frustrated by his team's performances so far that, during the summer, he sent a stern letter to all his players, berating them for a lack of quality.

Christian Ziege is, at 25, one of the new generation of German players and he accepts the criticism from Vogts. "I don't think it was a play to

shake us up. I think he was very obviously disappointed about the quality we have offered so far and he wanted the letter to inspire us to better things," he said.

Bryan Hamilton, the Northern Ireland manager, realises the importance of tonight's match in Germany and recognises that his own future could be shaped by the performance of his charges.

"Northern Ireland can decide the outcome of this group," he said. "If Germany lose, it will make it difficult for them, but we have to do something for our own pride. We have let the fans down at Windsor Park and we have got to put that right."

Northern Ireland's only chance of qualification is a win in Germany. They need to beat Germany and then hope that Germany lose to Belgium in their final match.

## Blake and Gould end Wales rift

NATHAN BLAKE's inclusion in the Wales side to play Turkey in a World Cup qualifying group seven match in Istanbul tonight brings to a conclusion one of the most unsavoury international incidents of recent years (Russell Kempson writes).

Four months ago, Blake, the black Bolton Wanderers striker, accused Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, of making a series of racist remarks to him. He said that he would refuse to play for his country again while Gould was in charge. Gould later apologised for

what he claimed were inadvertent and misinterpreted comments and, despite calls for his resignation from factions within the Football Association of Wales, he was given an extended two-year contract earlier this month.

Now, at last, the matter has been laid to rest. "It is finished. It won't be mentioned again," Gould said. "This is Nathan's big chance. He has the potential to be a fine player."

Though tonight's fixture is effectively meaningless, with Wales unable to qualify for the finals and Turkey holding

only an outside chance, Gould still views it as a valuable exercise for the younger members of his squad.

Wales, ranked 10th in the world, are in a group with Spain, Portugal, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and Turkey. They need to win their first two matches to have any chance of qualification.

Wales' only chance of qualification is a win in Germany. They need to beat Germany and then hope that Germany lose to Belgium in their final match.

## IN BRIEF

## Cookies take biscuit

MR J. COOK, of Boars Hill, Oxford, is the winner of the weekly prize for the Interactive Team Cricket game. Mr Cook's team, Cookies, scored 2,042 points last week, with Steve James, the Glamorgan batsman, the star of the team, with 353 points.

This week's prize is a photograph of a player of

## Towers return

LONDON Towers have resigned the nucleus of the squad who helped them win the basketball Budweiser League championship final and 7-Up Trophy last season. Neville Austin, the England centre, Danny Lewis and Karl Brown have all agreed new deals, to the delight of the coach, Kevin Cadle. "Hopefully, by keeping this nucleus, we can go into this year's European Cup and domestic competition with more experience which should hold us in good stead," he said.

Golf: Michael and Robin Hall staged a brave fightback on the opening day of the Burhill Family Foursomes yesterday. They were three down with three to play against the Collins of Burhill, but went on to win at the second extra hole.

Cycling: Britain's team for the mountain bike world championships in Switzerland in September includes the current senior men's and women's cross country champions, Nick Craig and Caroline Alexander. Fifty-one riders are in the squad named for the nine disciplines.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

LAMPADARY (a) A cluster of lamps, a chandelier. Also an officer in the church of Constantinople, whose duty it was to provide for the lighting of the church and to bear a taper before the emperor and the patriarch in processions. From the Greek lampas, a lamp. "At nightfall thirty-two lampadaries were lighted, the lamps in the Champs Elysees and the streets being covered with rags."

MARINARI (a) Seamanship: knowledge of navigation. From the medieval Latin, "Through their ignorance in Mariner, they stranded their vessel."

MOUNCEL (a) An assemblage (of animals), a division of a herd. From the Old French mound, a heap. Merin, 1880. The crowned lion that laded his best, departed in to xviii mouncel, and in cete mouncel was a lyonette that hadde lordship over hem."

MUMBLEBEAC (a) A Devon dialect. 1898. Dictionary of Scots Terms. "Mumblebeac or Mumblebeac, a name applied by British fishermen to a boat mired in a hawker and a trawler."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE  
1. Qxh7! Bxh7 2. Nxb7+ and White wins



IN ASSOCIATION WITH

EQUITY &amp; LAW

The scores in the first four columns cover the past week; the final column is the player's overall points total. The figures include all matches completed by August 18. Overseas players are shown in bold type. Rising stars in italic.

Player (no)

Runs Wickets Catches Bonus Weekly Overall

pts pts

Batsmen (001-145)

Category A

C. Adams (001) 0 0 0 0 0 1770

D. Bena (002) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

M. A. Atherton (003) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

C. W. J. Atherton (004) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

R. J. Bailey (005) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

K. J. Barnes (006) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (007) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (008) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (009) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (010) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (011) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (012) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (013) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (014) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (015) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (016) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (017) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (018) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (019) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (020) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (021) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (022) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (023) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (024) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (025) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (026) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (027) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (028) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (029) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (030) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (031) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (032) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (033) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (034) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (035) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (036) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (037) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (038) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (039) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (040) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

## INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Player (no)

Runs Wickets Catches Bonus Weekly Overall

pts pts

Batsmen (001-145)

Category A

C. Adams (001) 0 0 0 0 0 1770

D. Bena (002) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

M. A. Atherton (003) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

C. W. J. Atherton (004) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

R. J. Bailey (005) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

K. J. Barnes (006) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (007) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (008) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (009) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (010) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (011) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (012) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (013) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (014) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (015) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (016) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (017) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (018) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (019) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (020) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (021) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (022) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (023) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (024) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (025) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (026) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (027) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (028) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (029) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (030) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (031) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (032) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (033) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (034) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (035) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (036) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (037) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (038) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (039) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (040) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (041) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (042) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

## Wicketkeepers (186-216)

Player (no)

Runs Wickets Catches Bonus Weekly Overall

pts pts

Wicketkeepers (186-216)

Category A

C. Adams (001) 0 0 0 0 0 1770

D. Bena (002) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

M. A. Atherton (003) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

C. W. J. Atherton (004) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

R. J. Bailey (005) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

K. J. Barnes (006) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (007) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (008) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (009) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (010) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (011) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (012) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (013) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (014) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (015) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (016) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (017) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (018) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (019) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (020) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (021) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (022) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (023) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (024) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (025) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (026) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (027) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (028) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (029) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (030) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (031) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (032) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (033) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (034) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (035) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (036) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (037) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (038) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (039) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (040) 0 0 0 0 0 1185

D. J. Bates (041) 0 0 0 0 0 1185



# Driven over the boundary of logic

You would think that a politician who chose to withdraw from a time from public life and public pronouncements would know when to make a comeback. A cynical observer of political life — that is to say, anyone that ever picked up a newspaper — would think that a politician who chose a brief spell of exile would spend the entire period of his absence plotting the dramatic return.

I shall never be cynical about a politician again, for John Major has leapt back into public life with all the forethought and planning of the last of the Brudenells at the head of the Light Brigade. He could not help himself. The subject, you see, was cricket.

The conspiracy theorist might think that this was a brilliant improvisation, exploiting a populist issue such as sport. Major had been biding his time, waiting for just such a moment as this, when he might remind his former public that it is he, and not the present Prime Minister, who has the common touch: that it is he, the Brixton boy, he alone that under-

stands what makes a British heart beat.

But this was no planned move. It was a simple matter of emotional incontinence. It was cricket, you see, and — truly, madly, deeply — Major cares. He is in thrall to its many and varied mythologies. Cricket, sport, does that to people, even to former prime ministers.

The issue that roused his sleeping passions was the suggestion, from the Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, that the proposed lottery-funded British Academy of Sport should concentrate on Olympic sports — to the exclusion of the team sports, such as football, rugby union and, yes, cricket. "Sheer political spite," Major said, rather bafflingly. No, the plan should be changed "before it makes a mockery of our nation's sporting ambitions".

Sorry, John, but the England cricket team has already done that. They managed that long before the Labour Government got in, reaching a nadir of sorts in Zimbabwe. Major went on about "the Government's ill-judged decision", but he showed an

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

uncanny lack of judgment himself. "They have excluded," he thundered, "precisely those sports which most bring the nation together."

Well, nearly right. If you wish to be bothered by the actual facts, the team sports on which Major is so keen are coldly and deliberately organised to maximise their divisive effect. The United Kingdom, the country — correct me if I am wrong — over which Major held sway as

Prime Minister, actually has four national football teams; for that matter, 3½ national rugby union teams.

The history of both cricket and rugby union as aspects of the class war hardly needs restating here. The Norman Tebbit cricket test highlights deep divisions in society. In short, international sport is utterly divisive and Major was speaking utterly without thinking. For Major, as for most people, one of sport's great charms is that it lets you off thinking.

We had a general election and, as Sam Goldwyn had it, we have all passed a lot of water since then. And there have been plenty of contentious issues, matters esculent to those with a taste for such things. But it was not war and peace and justice and mercy and human rights and human wrongs that roused Major from his lair. It was cricket.

Sport. People love it with a passion that makes no sense. Sport subsumes rationality. Real life what is that? It is for the sort of people who cannot handle sport. Like all forms of incontinent love, sporting

love makes fools of people and its victims don't care.

Sport is the powerful stuff. In Japan, drunkenness is accepted as a legitimate holiday from politeness and the necessary formal measure of everyday life. In this country, sport is nothing less than a holiday from rationality itself.

I do not intend these words to be critical. I do not set myself up as a wholly rational Cartesian being. No one who spends as much money as I do on horses can make serious claims for rationality. Or sanity. Horses are my folly and joy and there's an end to the matter.

Cricket is Major's joy and good luck to him, but the joys of sport stem from sport's perfect triviality. It is as well to bear this in mind — also the fact that sport is folly and nobody who finds joy in it can escape that small touch of foolishness that sport imposes on us. To bowdlerise the words of Sonny Barger, president of the Oakland Chapter of the Hell's Angels, to the policeman at Bass Lake, Sheriff, we're all fools, or we wouldn't be here.

BOWLS: FOURS TEAMS FROM SAME COUNTY CLOSE IN ON PLACES IN FINAL

## Somerset ready to repeat rare feat

By DAVID RHYS JONES

THE prospect of an all-Somerset final was exciting a large crowd at Beach House Park last night after teams from Clevedon and Bridgwater qualified for this morning's semi-finals of the English Bowling Association's national fours championship.

Clevedon defeated John Simmons and his Garston club-mates from Herefordshire, 25-10, in the quarter-finals yesterday, while Bridgwater BCL scored 15 shots in five mid-game ends on their way to a 27-13 win

Results ..... 40

over Buckden, who beat Tony Alcock's Cheltenham on Monday.

Every county sends two representatives to Worthing in each of the four leading events and they are seeded in separate halves of the draw, but the chances of two teams from the same county meeting in the final are extremely slim.

Strangely, Somerset has achieved the distinction twice, once in 1978, when David Bryant was beaten by Charlie Burchin in the singles final, and again the following year, when teams from Bristol and Weston-super-Mare met in the triples final.

Roy Hedges, who now plays for Clevedon, was in the Bristol trio 18 years ago and is hoping to win his second



Bill Hamilton, of Warwickshire, sets a wood in motion with style at the national championships at Worthing

English title, while Pip Branfield, Clevedon's third man, skipped the club to the triples title in 1984. Steve Withers is at lead and Graham Luker at skip.

The Bridgwater quartet's

story is a dream come true for a brand new combination, in particular for Barry Smith, Mike Davies and Don Fowkes, who will be defending their national triples title later this week. Smith, who had not played bowls for 13 years, came out of retirement last summer to partner Davies and Fowkes, who moved to the British Cellophane Club from Banwell and Burnham respectively, so that they could play together.

The scratch combination proved irresistible. First at county level, then at Wor-

thing, the three have gone from strength to strength. This season, they have introduced Richard Billington, a bubbly character, at third man, and have showed they can win at fours as well as triples.

The British Cellophane Club is no longer part of the recreational facilities provided by the Bridgwater-based plastics firm, so there has been a change of name since last season and the champions are competing in the fours and defending their triples title as members of Bridgwater BCL. In the semi-finals today,

Bridgwater will play a strong four from Rainworth Miners Welfare, skipped by Keith Davies, who beat Bourne-mouth 20-13.

Clevedon's task looks tougher. They play Swindon Westcott, who they know well from national indoor competition, as they compete in the same region. The Swindon back-end, Mel Biggs and Steve Warren, won the England pairs title two years ago and Warren, an inspirational skip who wears his heart on his sleeve, is reportedly in fine form this summer.

### TENNIS

## Henman and Rusedski at mercy of draw in US Open

By JULIAN MUSCAT  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

TIM HENMAN and Greg Rusedski have missed out on seeded berths at the US Open, which begins at Flushing Meadows, New York, on Monday. Although the Britons moved up the world rankings this week, the presence of all 16 of the leading men has them at the mercy of the draw tomorrow.

Both players performed well at New Haven, Connecticut, last week, but first-round losses in earlier tournaments compromised their rankings. Henman advanced by one place, to No. 20, after reaching the quarter-finals at New Haven. Rusedski jumped four places, to a career-best No. 23 after his semi-final defeat by Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the eventual winner.

Henman, the British No. 1, has more to lose from an early exit at Flushing Meadows. Having reached the quarter-finals 12 months ago, his ranking will slip appreciably if he makes an early exit. Rusedski last night was due to play his opening-round match in the MFS Pro Championships in Boston. Should he reach the third round, he will almost certainly overtake Henman, who has forsaken tournament play this week, in

time, the committee has resisted the urge. Kafelnikov is seeded No. 3 behind Pete Sampras, the top seed and defending champion, and Michael Chang. Sampras, with ten grand slam tournament wins to his name, is bidding to close down on Roy Emerson's record of 12.

Boris Becker, seeded No. 13, is due to play his last grand slam event before retiring later this year. However, his participation has been thrown into doubt by the death of Axel Meyer-Woelken, 58, a close friend and business associate. Becker, who pulled out of the Boston event on hearing the news, has not played for four weeks because of injury.

In the women's singles, Martina Hingis, beaten just twice this year, is the youngest No. 1 seed in the tournament's history. Hingis, who will be 17 a week on Saturday, supercedes Tracy Austin, who was 17 years and eight months when top-seeded in 1980. Among the leading 16, only Steffi Graf is absent through injury. Graf is making swift progress from the knee injury that she sustained before Wimbledon and hopes to return to competitive tennis in time for the Chase Championships at Madison Square Garden, New York, in November.



Becker: in doubt

## Silly and serious ideas

TELEVISION CHOICE

TW Time Machine  
BBC1, 7.30pm

As silly inventions go, the vacuum cleaner that cuts hair must rank near the top of the list, but it makes a light-hearted interlude in this latest trawl through 33 years of *Tomorrow's World*. It is recalled by *TW*'s veteran presenter, Rayman, that in 1964, the year that also saw the fire at Windsor Castle. Another raid on the archives recalls two stabs, many years apart, at a more user-friendly bassoon. Professor Giles Brindley and Edgar Brown each appeared on the show claiming to have the answer. Now they have been brought together, with a professional bassoonist, Gordon Lang, judging their efforts. But *Tomorrow's World* has more serious uses. David Wait, a keen rugby player, is grateful to the programme for pointing the way towards a new treatment for a torn ligament.

The Day That Changed My Life  
BBC2, 7.30pm

Most of the lives in this series have changed for the worse, but here to break the pattern is what its subject describes as a fairytale come true. She is Gill Neville, who grew up in a council house in Malvern and left school at 15 to work in a school kitchen. From this unpromising start she became a successful model and later ran her own agency. Then, well into her thirties and resigned to staying single, she met Ross Pedrana, an Australian farmer and vet who was in Britain on a business trip. They fell for each other at once, married and she gave up a fulfilling career and busy social life in London to deliver lambs and castrate bulls in the loneliness of the Australian Outback. The readjustment was difficult at first but she has no regrets. Her departure has clearly been much harder for her mother and her sisters.

One Foot in the Past  
BBC2, 8.00pm

Christopher Moran, a millionaire with a passion for Tudor architecture, is rebuilding a great palace on the banks of the Thames and his critics are crying foul. Not much of Crosby Hall, once the home of Sir Thomas More, has survived but Moran is determined to bring it back to life.



Hong Kong customs men (BBC1, 10pm)

drawing on elements of such Tudor masterpieces as Hampton Court. Moran insists on the integrity of the project but the architect, Max Hutchinson, dismisses it as a "self-indulgent nouveau riche gesture". In quieter mood "whispering" Dan Cruikshank celebrates the little-known and long-abandoned royal gunpowder factory at Waltham Abbey in Essex and the actress Sorcha Cusack revisits Dalkey Island south of Dublin, an insignificant place but rich in childhood memories.

Inside Story: Smoke Rings  
BBC1, 10.00pm

With smoking denounced as a killer and in decline in the Western world, tobacco companies are looking to make their profits elsewhere. China, which accounts for one in every three cigarettes smoked in the world, is a prime target. Tobacco manufacturers spend millions promoting their brands there, but are up against high import duties and a state monopoly system. The film estimates that only 5 per cent of cigarettes sold in China are of foreign origin and it claims that the vast majority of these are smuggled in, through Hong Kong and the Philippines. It further alleges that the tobacco giant BAT, the fourth largest company on the United Kingdom stock market, knows what is going on. BAT declined to appear in the programme. But the company issued a statement saying that it does not smuggle cigarettes or condone smuggling. Peter Waymark

### RADIO CHOICE

Northern Lights  
Radio 3, 11.55am

The longevity of the Edinburgh Festival is such that its "greatest moments" now form a very long list but *Northern Lights* will find few dissenters in choosing, for today's programme, the 1962 Festival, visit by Shostakovich, who spent the entire three weeks in Edinburgh along with several other leading Russian musical figures of the time. Lord Harewood, then the festival's director, persuaded Shostakovich to appear and this memoir reveals the great composer as being extremely nervous about his likely reception in Edinburgh. The music critic Andrew Porter recalls audiences being unsure as to how to take the music of Shostakovich, but all of those appearing are convinced the Festival was right to showcase one living composer.

RADIO 1

6.00am Mark Radcliffe 6.30am Simon Mayo 11.30am Radio 1 Roadshow, live from St Ives 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45pm John Peel 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00pm Evening News 6.00pm Newsbeat 6.30pm Evening Session with Steve Lamacq 8.30pm Global Update 9.40pm John Peel 10.30pm Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Chris Warren 4.00pm Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Alan Lester 7.30am Sarah Kennedy 9.30am Ken Bruce 11.30am Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05pm John Dunn 7.30pm Nick Barnard 8.00pm Radio 2 News 8.15pm The News 8.30pm News 8.45pm Radio 2 News 8.55pm The News 9.00pm News 9.15pm Radio 2 News 9.30pm News 9.45pm Radio 2 News 10.00pm News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00pm News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00am News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00am News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00am News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00am News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00am News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00am News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00am News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00am News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00am News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 9.00am News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 10.00am News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00am News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00am News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00am News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00am News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00am News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00am News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00am News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00am News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00am News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00am News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 9.00am News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 10.00am News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00am News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00am News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00am News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00am News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00am News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00am News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00am News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00am News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00am News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00am News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 9.00am News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 10.00am News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00am News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00am News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00am News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00am News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00am News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00am News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00am News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00am News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00am News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00am News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 9.00am News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 10.00am News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00am News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00am News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00am News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00am News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00am News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00am News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00am News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00am News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00am News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00am News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 9.00am News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 10.00am News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00am News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00am News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00am News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00am News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00am News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00am News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00am News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00am News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00am News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00am News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 9.00am News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 10.00am News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00am News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00am News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00am News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00am News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00am News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00am News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00am News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00am News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00am News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00am News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 9.00am News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 10.00am News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00am News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00am News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00am News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00am News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00am News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00am News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00am News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00am News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00am News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00am News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 9.00am News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 10.00am News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00am News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00am News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00am News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00am News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00am News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00am News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00am News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00am News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00am News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00am News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 9.00am News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 10.00am News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00am News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00am News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00am News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00am News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00am News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00am News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00am News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00am News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00am News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00am News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 9.00am News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 10.00am News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00am News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00am News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00am News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00am News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00am News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00am News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00am News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00am News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00am News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00am News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 9.00am News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 10.00am News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00am News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00am News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00am News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00am News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00am News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00am News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00am News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00am News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00am News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00am News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 9.00am News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 10.00am News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00am News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00am News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00am News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00am News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00am News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00am News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00am News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00am News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00am News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00am News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 9.00am News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 10.00am News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00am News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00am News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00am News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00am News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00am News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00am News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00am News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00am News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00am News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00am News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 9.00am News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 10.00am News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00am News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00am News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00am News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00am News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00am News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00am News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00am News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00am News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00am News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00am News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 9.00am News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 10.00am News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00am News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00am News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00am News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00am News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00am News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00am News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00am News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00am News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00am News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00am News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 9.00am News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 10.00am News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00am News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00am News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00am News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00am News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00am News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00am News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00am News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00am News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00am News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00am News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News 8.45pm News 9.00am News 9.15pm News 9.30pm News 9.45pm News 10.00am News 10.15pm News 10.30pm News 10.45pm News 11.00am News 11.15pm News 11.30pm News 11.45pm News 12.00am News 12.15pm News 12.30pm News 12.45pm News 1.00am News 1.15pm News 1.30pm News 1.45pm News 2.00am News 2.15pm News 2.30pm News 2.45pm News 3.00am News 3.15pm News 3.30pm News 3.45pm News 4.00am News 4.15pm News 4.30pm News 4.45pm News 5.00am News 5.15pm News 5.30pm News 5.45pm News 6.00am News 6.15pm News 6.30pm News 6.45pm News 7.00am News 7.15pm News 7.30pm News 7.45pm News 8.00am News 8.15pm News 8.30pm News



# Life goes on, but it can never be the same

There was little doubt that a film about the Hungerford massacre would be moving, the only real question was whether *Hungerford: Ten Years On* (BBC2) would do it in a way that proved worthwhile. As the narration noted, we have become so familiar with mass loss of life—Hungerford, Dunblane, Hillsborough, Lockerbie, Zebrugg, Abernethy.

But what the narration didn't mention is that we have also become familiar with how film makers treat such disasters. There is a predictability, an inevitability, even a feeling of tokenism when it comes to significant anniversaries. For half an hour, an hour, whatever, we have a quick fix of vicarious grief and then, with a deep breath and a sigh of relief that it wasn't us, we move on.

Lacy Jago, the producer of last night's film, could do nothing

about human nature. But she could signal, early on, her intention to make this tribute just a little bit different. Instead of children playing, that perennial symbol of life "going on", an elderly couple sang as they did the washing up. They were having such fun that they started to dance around the kitchen. It was a lovely image but it became remarkable once we had learnt the story behind it.

The women singing was Kath Wainwright. Her husband had been killed and she had been wounded by Michael Ryan as they drove into Hungerford to visit their son, who in the cruellest of many cruel twists of fate that day was also the local policeman. She had subsequently remarried and moved to a house that was just 200 yards from where she had been shot. Hungerford was such a lovely little town, she explained. Life had moved on — a devoted new husband, singing, dancing,

bingo at the British Legion — but, amid all this normality, the extraordinary had not been forgotten. "It's true what they say: you don't feel the bullet that hits you."

Jago concentrated on four families and while they all had different and awful stories to tell, they shared much in common, including a deep-felt sense of guilt. Would it have happened if neighbours had befriended him? Could somebody have disarmed him? This was the sort of film where such questions were asked, but not answered.

Some anxieties you sympathised with immediately — the father still haunted by the precise directions he gave his daughter to a picnic site in Saverston Forest. Others took you by surprise, such as the Mayor who felt guilty about the privileged meetings he had with the Prime Minister and the Queen as a direct result of the shootings.



For the victims, it was explained, the manner of their deaths was a defining moment, in that they are destined to be remembered forever as somebody killed by Ryan rather than as the people they were. But, as Jago's intelligent and undoubtedly worthwhile film made clear, it was also a defining moment for those who survived, who now have to live with both the memories of what happened and how they

reacted, however bizarre that now seems.

Kath Wainwright's daughter, Kay, recalled feeling jealous of her policeman brother as he fielded media interest, even when the press rounded on him when they discovered that he had signed Ryan's firearms certificate. Trevor, her brother, not surprisingly remembered it rather differently. What he missed was the spirit in the town for the year after the killings, a spirit that ensured — once again — that life did go on.

A completely different set of feelings were required to get through *Plane Crazy*, a documentary series charting Bob Cringely's attempt to build a plane in 30 days. The crucial word in that sentence is "series". I mean, how on earth can one man's vainglorious attempt to build a plane in quadruple quick time be worth three hours of fairly prime-time television? I had a better idea when

Day One finally began after 44 minutes. Cringely is clearly not a man to rush his 180 minutes of fame.

I have so far failed to provide you with an important piece of information: Cringely is American; very, very American. He lives and works in Silicon Valley, receives more than 100 e-mails a day and has no idea of the meaning of the words "shy and retiring". What Bill Bryson did for Britain and Peter Mayle did for Provence, Cringely hopes to do for aviation.

If he just stopped wasting our time, I might not mind. But last night he spent an inordinate time honing his own innovative design for the plane, only to have it completely reworked in the last ten minutes by the man he had employed to prepare the blueprints. I think we were supposed to share the frustration (being West

Coast, Cringely is big on sharing) but by then I was nursing a large chunk of my very own. One last thing, especially for those thinking this must be a variation on the *Challenge Anneka* theme, Cringely has already built five planes. Now we have to watch him building his sixth. Where's the fun in that?

The fun in *Home Ground* (BBC2) was discovering there is a flourishing trade fair for fossils, where \$40,000 will buy you your own fossilised tree fern, complete with fossilised fish. What the fish were doing up the tree fern in the first place was never explained. The mild disappointment was watching a well-intentioned programme never quite hit its target, never quite proving that the commercial exploitation of fossils was necessarily a bad thing. The tree fern and attendant fish, by the way, were destined to end up in a casino. Very surreal.

## REVIEW

Matthew Bond

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (80575)
  - 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (78643)
  - 8.00am Breakfast News Extra (7863372)
  - 8.20am Ready, Steady, Cook (7) (7863462)
  - 9.50am *Eastenders* (7) (7863704)
  - 10.20am Put It to the Test (5937020)
  - 10.45am *Cartoon* (7) (7863914)
  - 11.00am News (7) and weather (7863865)
  - 11.05am Due South (7) (7863876)
  - 11.50am Good Neighbours (7) (7863833)
  - 12.00am News (7) and weather (7863865)
  - 12.05pm Wipeout (7) (7863448)
  - 12.35am *Neighbours* (7) (7863833)
  - 1.00am News (7) and weather (7773)
  - 1.30am Regional News (7) (7863258)
  - 1.40am *Murder on Sycamore Street* (1992) with Dick Van Dyke, George Hamilton and David Warner. A doctor-detective investigates the apparent suicide of an eminent plastic surgeon. There's no shortage of murder suspects. Directed by Christian I. Nyby II (7863202)
  - 3.10am *Quincy* (7) (7863488)
  - 4.00am *Popeye* (7863843) 4.10am *Thunderbirds* (7) (7863427) 4.20am *Morph* TV with Tony Hart (7863555) 4.30am *Prince of Atlantis* (7) (7863484) 5.00am *Newswatch* (7) (7863725) 5.10am *The Lowdown* (7) (7863189)
  - 5.35am *Neighbours* (7) (7863757)
  - 6.00am News (7) and weather (7863)
  - 6.30am *Regional News Magazine* (7) (7863)
  - 7.00am *Big Break Stars of the Future* Jim Davidson and John Wingo introduce teenage singer stars attempting to win prizes for their schools (7863)
  - 7.30am *Time Machine* What has become of the inventions featured on *Tomorrow's World* over the years? (7) (7863)
  - 8.00am *The National Lottery Live* from Edinburgh (7) (214469)
  - 8.15am *Dick Emery: A Life on the Edge* A tribute to the late comedian, introduced by Terry Wogan (7) (487556)
  - 8.45am *Points of View* (7) (190440)
  - 9.00am *News Regional News* (7) (8665)
  - 9.25am *National Lottery Update* (86652)
  - 9.30am *Men Behaving Badly* Dobson and Dorothy go away for a sailing weekend, leaving the men to get up to mischief (7) (786318)
  - 10.00am *Inside Story: Smoke Rings* A series of connections between the West's tobacco giants and the smugglers trying to get cigarettes into China? (7) (483001)
  - 10.55am *Classic Right Here Right Now* The band introduces a preview of selected tracks from their third album *Be Here Now* and give their own account of what has undoubtedly been a tumultuous year for them (7) (786333)
  - 11.35am *Cool as Ice* (1991) with Vanilla Ice, Kristin Minter, Naomi Campbell and Bobby Brown. A motorcycle, who is also a rap singer, rides into a small town and falls for a pretty student — unaware her father is being pursued by crooked cops. Directed by David Koford (470010)
  - 1.05am-4.10am *Weather* (7863773)

- BBC2**
- 6.00am *Open University: Four Towns and a Cheese* (8198579) 6.25am *Vibrations* (4048376) 6.50am *Work and Energy* (892777)
  - 7.15am *See-See News* (7) and signing (7863763)
  - 7.30am *Teletubbies* (7) (7863811) 7.55am *Postman Pat* (7) (1471469) 8.10am *The Really Wild Show* (7) (7863822) 8.30am *Spideoman* (7) (7863778) 8.55am *Smart* (803407) 10.05am *Science Adventure* (803223) 10.25am *Science Bump* (803223) 10.45am *Teletubbies* (7863778) 11.15am *Awash with Colour* (803223)
  - 11.45am *The Private Affairs of Bel Ami* (1948) Melodrama with George Sanders as a woman who uses her charm with women to advance herself socially, ruthlessly exploiting the talent of a journalist's widow. Based on Guy de Maupassant's story, with Angela Lansbury and John Carradine. Directed by Albert Lewin (1105577)
  - 1.35am *For the Love of It* (7) (4334582) 1.40am *Blockbusters* (8031510) 2.05am *Natural World Classic* (7) (7863952) 3.00am *News* (7) 3.05am *Modern Times* (7) (4319522) 3.35am *News* (7)
  - 4.00am *Old Acquaintance* (1943) Drama with Bette Davis, Miriam Hopkins. Directed by Vincent Sherman (8551931) 4.10am *Land of the Eagle* (7863922) 4.40am *The Muppet Movie* (8551931) 5.15am *Life Line* (240510) 5.25am *Star Trek* (803043) 6.10am *World Cup Soccer* (7863044) 6.40am *The Day That Changed My Life* (4575) 9.00am *One Foot in the Past* (7407) 9.30am *The Burger and the King* (58814)
  - 5.50am *Life Line* (7) (454285) 6.00am *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (7) (803193) 6.45am *Pen and Pencil* (7) (803193) 7.05am *The Muppet Movie* (7) (803193)

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (7414407)
  - 9.25am *Win, Lose or Draw* (7) (8028001)
  - 9.55am *Judge Judy* (7) (8036327)
  - 10.20am *News* (7) (7863175)
  - 10.25am *Regional News* (7) (7863046)
  - 10.30am *Murder by the Book* (1987) with Robert Hays, Catherine Mary Stewart and Celeste Holm. A writer gets entangled in a murder case worthy of one of his novels. Directed by Mel Damski (7017049)
  - 12.30pm *Regional News* (7) (4301049)
  - 12.35am *News* (7) and weather (7863138)
  - 12.55am *Shortland Street* (186737)
  - 1.30am *Home and Away* (7) (1480548)
  - 1.50am *Labour of Love: The Artists* (1992) Drama, with the artist's daughter becoming a surrogate mother to her own grandchild. Directed by Jerry London (1401488)
  - 3.20am *News* (7) (2281223)
  - 3.25am *Regional News* (7) (2280594)
  - 3.30am *Totipot* (7) (2415507) 3.40am *Ticket to Ride* (8036327) 3.50am *Cartoon Time* (8135339) 4.00am *The Animal Show* (8036327) 4.10am *Chatterbox Puppies* (7) (2272223) 4.20am *Art Attack* (7) (2282223) 4.40am *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* (7) (2282223)
  - 5.10am *Yan Can Cook* (2130302)
  - 5.40am *News* (7) and weather (811865)
  - 6.00am *Home and Away* (7) (7863662)
  - 6.25am *HTV Weather* (7) (16143)
  - 6.30am *The West Tonight* (7) (758)
  - 7.00am *Emmerdale* Zoe and Sophie reach an understanding (7) (3846)
  - 7.30am *Coronation Street* Sally and Natalie engage in a full and frank exchange of views (7) (843)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
  - 10.30am *Cartoon Time* (2975575) 10.40am *David the Gnome* (432594) 11.05am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.25am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 9.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 10.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 11.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 12.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 1.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 2.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.00am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.30am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 3.50am *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 4.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 5.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 6.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 7.50pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.00pm *Cartoon Time* (432594) 8.30pm *Cartoon Time* (432





## EQUESTRIANISM 37

Change of heart gives Stark his Burghley chance

# SPORT

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 20 1997

## RACING 39

Dettori proves equal to the task on Singpiel



Crowds snub Irish swimmer as long-running drug rumours overshadow victory

# Smith celebrates empty triumph

Gold for Britain as Palmer triumphs

FROM CRAIG LORR  
IN SEVILLE

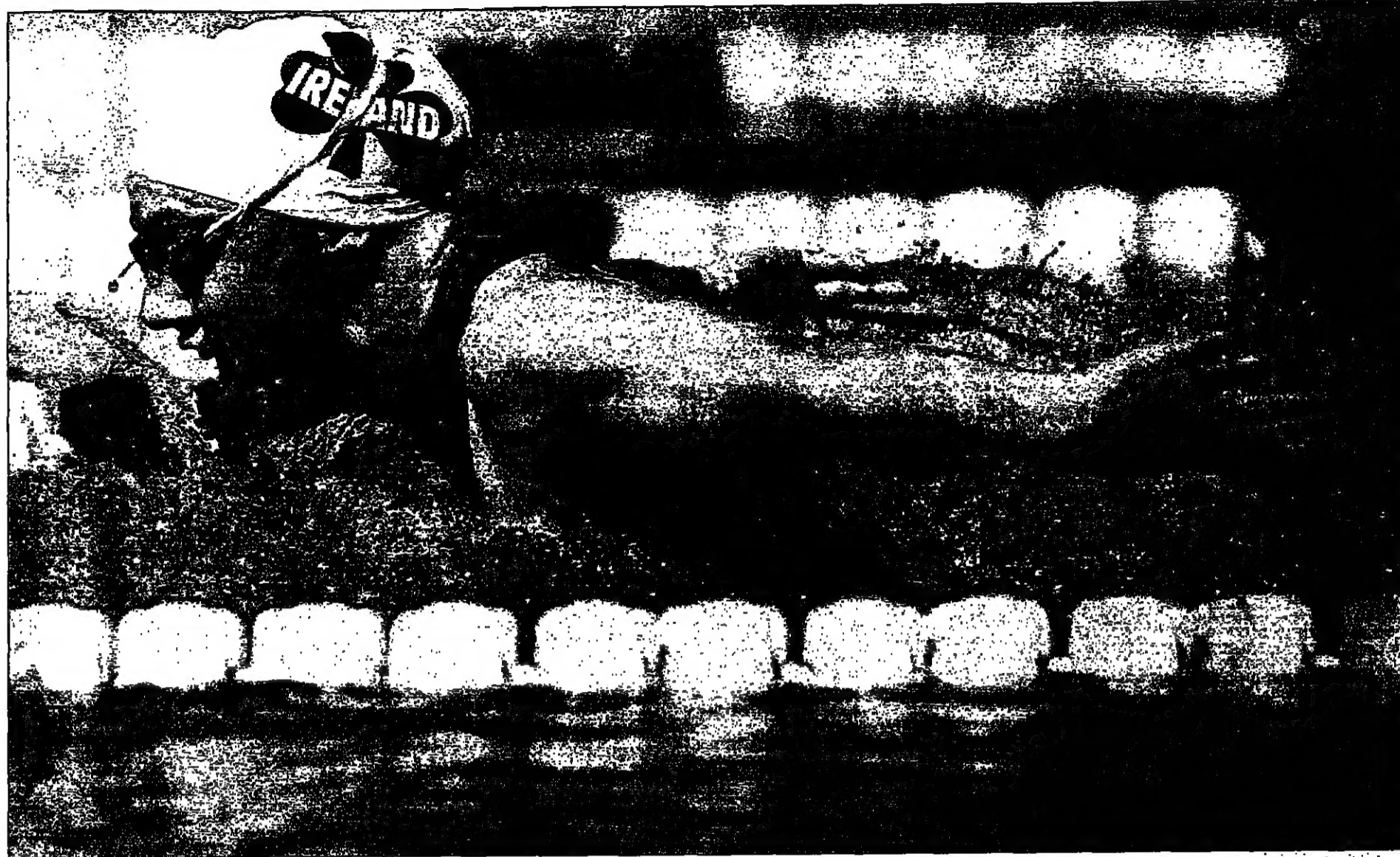


Michael Calvin on a campaign of innuendo haunting the European title holder in Seville

Michelle Smith stood forlornly on the podium, clutching a crumpled Irish tricolour as she waited to receive her latest gold medal. She had no option but to watch the crowd, consisting mainly of coaches and fellow competitors, stream towards the exits. Those who remained at the San Pablo pool here offered her no more than a polite round of applause. The insult was intentional, the victory empty.

That win, in the 400 metres individual medley at the European championships yesterday afternoon, was as predictable as the symbolism of the reaction it aroused. Damnation by faint praise has become an occupational hazard for the triple Olympic champion since she became a watchword for sport's loss of innocence in Atlanta. She has never failed a drugs test yet an immediate summons to her third in the past week merely added another dimension to the innuendo.

"I'm very very proud of what I've done here," she insisted when she emerged from doping control. She maintained firm eye-contact with questioners, but her tremulous voice revealed inner tension. "I don't accept that I'm damned if I do win and damned if I don't. I've



Smith secures her victory in the 400 metres individual medley in the European swimming championships at Seville yesterday. Photographs: Marc Aspland

never felt like I wanted to quit this. Swimming is my life. It's what I do, what I love."

Her husband, the former discus thrower, Erik de Bruin, decided that she had been sufficiently effusive. He nudged her in the back, made a show of bending to collect her kitbag and led her out of the complex, ignoring her obligation to appear at an official press conference. The remote possibility that she could be banned from the championships as a result will set the media agenda for the rest of the week.

Atlanta's morality tale has

soured into a sad soap opera, in which Smith has been typecast as principal villain. All champions are, to an extent, isolated by their achievements, but she has been uniquely marginalised by mistrust. She trains alone, in a four-lane pool in Kilkenny, and has no close friends in the sport. Her husband is omnipresent, a human shield.

Vendettas in the small, occasionally seamy world of Irish swimming are conducted with a subtlety that owes more to expedience than experience. The majority of officials, owed into submission by the unprecedented nature of her success, are blithely non-committal in public. Privately, however, they are resentful of having to promote a tainted role model.

The whispering campaign against the Olympic champion shows no sign of losing its momentum. Damning statistics, charting the unlikely nature of her improvements, are routinely leaked. Details of her drug-testing programme reach the public domain in similarly surreptitious fashion. Inevitably, those sympathetic to her cause use identical methods to get her counter-arguments across.

The gossip has a small-town viciousness in keeping with a scarred sport, because the problems of Irish swimming extend beyond Smith's credibility. Frank McCann,

the former Ireland team manager, is serving a life sentence for the murder of his wife and niece, Derry O'Rourke. Smith's former coach, is awaiting trial on statutory rape charges involving nine swimmers under the age of 17. George Gibney, head coach of the Ireland squad at the Seoul Olympics, fled the country when he was similarly charged.

To be at his wife's side in Seville, de Bruin was obliged to be uncharacteristically emotive. He apologised to the swimming authorities for forging his accreditation for

the last European championship, in Vienna in 1995, but appeared unconcerned by the slur on his character. He makes no attempt to conceal his bitterness at his four-year suspension for drug abuse, which was completed last month.

He is openly dismissive of other coaches, who are suspicious of his refusal to discuss the specifics of his training regime. His wife, who competed in her married name as a gesture of defiance, is his only pupil. He was in solicitous mood after her heat yesterday morning when she refused all

interview requests before being ushered towards Chalkie White, an Ireland swimming coach who, in his secondary role of journalist, has become her principal apologist.

The damage-limitation exercise is onerous. Unlike Amy Van Dyken, of the United States, who became a millionaire after winning two individual gold medals in Atlanta, Smith is thought to have earned barely £100,000 from her three Olympic titles. Apart from one appearance in a shampoo commercial, her only other links are with a milk company and the Irish language board.

She is on her third agent in 18 months. The irony is that the debate that continues to focus on Smith is merely the symptom of a bigger problem.

Don Talbot, of Australia, the most influential coach over the past 30 years, is in Seville lobbying for the adoption of a more cohesive anti-drug policy. He recognises the damage inflicted by the globally documented unease about Smith, and is affronted by the drug-driven records set by Chinese swimmers. He insists that more than four out-of-competition tests a year are required.

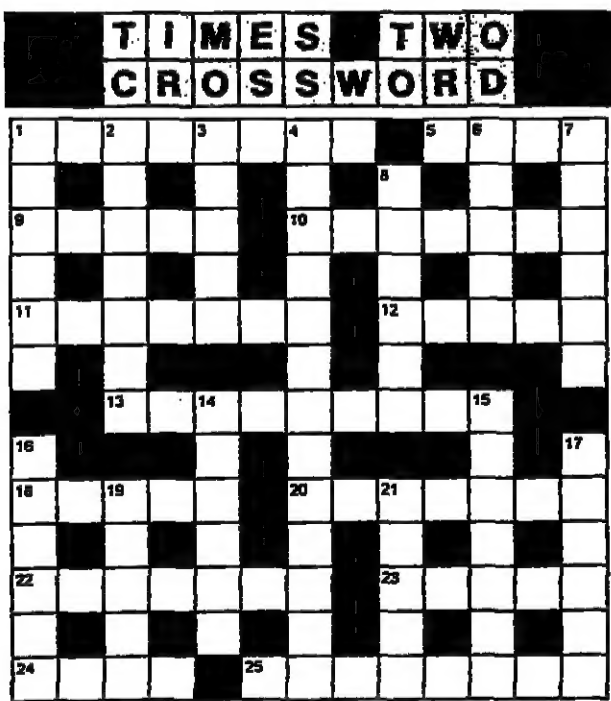
"People say why, why, why, but they know very well why," he said. "They don't want to admit that our house is not in order. I'm trying to make sure

the drug issue doesn't go away because, in a bureaucratic sport like swimming, it can be put to one side."

Smith has heard the slurs, the unsubstantiated rumours. "I don't listen to it anymore," she insisted. "I have had doping control after doping control. If you are a three-times Olympic champion and No 1 in the world, you've got to be tested as much as, if not more, than anyone else. I have been this year."

But her victory yesterday, given suitably bizarre backing by a trumpet playing *Viva España*, again raised more questions than answers. She beat the 15-year-old Ukrainian, Yana Klochkova, over the last 50 metres, but her most daunting opponent will remain the Frankenstein monster of her reputation.

Photograph, page 37



No 1177

### ACROSS

- 1 Exhausted (4): useless person (8)
- 5 Unwanted plant: feeble person (4)
- 9 Out of order, ruined (5)
- 10 Screw up: collapse (7)
- 11 Word formed of initials (7)
- 12 Show falsity of (5)
- 13 Unwanted scraps (9)
- 18 Jumped (5)
- 20 Cattle disease, may infect man (7)
- 22 Victoria Falls river (7)
- 23 Green snooker fabric (5)
- 24 (Nordic) character (4)
- 25 Ignored (8)

### DOWN

- 1 Decree imposed (6)
- 2 Clothing (arch) (7)
- 3 Relay runners' stick (5)
- 4 Housing: settlement (13)
- 6 Drive out (5)
- 7 Make more profound (6)
- 8 Soap-film talk: risky investment (6)
- 14 In better condition: gasman (6)
- 15 Close-packed (ranks) (7)
- 16 (School club) jacket (6)
- 17 Lengthen (6)
- 19 Capital of Jordan (5)
- 21 Item of furniture: list of data (5)

### SOLUTION TO NO 1176

- ACROSS: 1 Pupa 3 Specific 8 Capable 10 Shred 11 For dear life 13 Stride 15 Aperçu 17 Thin-skinned 20 Chain 21 October 22 Escarole 23 Pied
- DOWN: 1 Pacific 2 Paper 4 Poetry 5 Case in point 6 Forbear 7 Coda 9 Breadwinner 12 Sundered 14 Rat race 16 Escort 18 Nobel 19 Ache

### SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1177

- ACROSS: 1 Rift 3 Outcast 8 Present 9 Admit 10 Swift 11 Elevate 13 Geriatric 17 Maypole 19 Probe 20 Angle 22 Furtive 23 Tiniest 24 Well
- DOWN: 1 Repose 2 Feelingly 3 On the face of it 4 Trace 5 Aim 6 Tether 7 Better 12 Anchorite 14 Report 15 Impart 16 Reject 18 Obese 21 Gin

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic or international network is J. Malcolm, Watford, Herts.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic network is P. Manwaring, Woking, Surrey. All flights subject to availability.

## England ready to let Rowell continue

By MARK SOUSTER

JACK ROWELL is expected to be confirmed as the England coach through to the 1999 World Cup at an emergency meeting of the Rugby Football Union's national playing committee in London today. Given Ian McGeechan's decision to turn down the post and the lack of a credible alternative, it is understood that Rowell will be offered the opportunity to complete the mission he set out on in 1994.

That he wants to continue is not in doubt, but on what terms remains to be seen. He has said that business commitments will restrict him to a part-time role, while the RFU has been adamant that a full-time coach is necessary. However, it is felt that with give and take on both sides and an element of face-saving after the public courting of McGeechan, Rowell will continue.

Rowell, who said yesterday that the issue could have been handled with more sensitivity, was otherwise non-committal, saying only that he was "pretty relaxed" about the situation and did not expect to hear anything conclusive until the

## Lloyd picks moment to rake over the Ashes

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

DAVID LLOYD, the England coach, admitted yesterday that his team had made no progress this summer in narrowing the gap with Australia. On the eve of the final Ashes Test at the Oval, he also expressed his frustration with England's recurrent failings in consistency.

Lloyd told for the first time of his anger behind the closed door of the Trent Bridge dressing-room after the surrender ten days ago that has rendered this last match irrelevant to the series. "I was very straightforward," he said. "It was unacceptable to be bowled out like that."

"We have said time and again that we must eradicate the bad sessions that are costing us matches. It is taking time — more time than I had hoped and more time than most people probably think we should have."

Robert Croft was yesterday released from England's 14-strong party, making way for Phil Tufnell's first Test of summer. Tufnell has been selected in each of the six Test squads, but been sent back to his county before all five

previous games. "It's been a strange year," he said yesterday, "just driving up and down all the time."

Tufnell, in jolly mood, reflected on the fact that his only Test cricket in the past three years has been played overseas. "I must be a good tourist," he said. On being told a rumour that the Australians — especially the Waugh brothers — enjoy his bowling, he recalled his most recent Test against them. "Adelaide, last tour. I think we won... I think I got Mark Waugh out for two."

Devon Malcolm missed yesterday's training session for a benefit lunch, of all things, but he definitely plays tomorrow. The remaining doubt involves Dean Headley, who is still struggling with a bruised right heel. Peter Martin will stay with the squad on standby.

Shaun Young, recruited from his county season with Gloucestershire, will make his Test debut for Australia.

Lloyd's verdict, page 48  
Hunt's return, page 40  
ITC details, page 41

LONG DISTANCE UP TO 66%  
CHEAPER THAN B.T.

THINK st

Destination	BT	FT	Savings
USA	24p	10p	58%
GERMANY	28p	18p	36%
AUSTRALIA	49p	20p	59%
JAPAN	77p	26p	66%

STANDARD RATE one minute call including VAT

If you've got a BT phone, you can make big savings to over 250 countries by adding First Telecom's service to it.

Once you've opened an account with us, you just dial a simple number before you make any long distance or overseas calls.

To see how much further we can make your money go, Think First.



FIRST TELECOM

0800 458 0099